

THE TIMES Tomorrow

It's always raining, the clubhouse is rotten and usually no more than five of the players turn up. Alan Franks, dropped from the team, watches from the sidelines of the Modern Times column tomorrow as the Old Boys play football, delving into the world of Howard Raglan, legendary captain of the Old Beltinghamians - bottom of the Darlington league and without a win in 10 seasons.

On the Books Page, Michael Ratcliffe reviews Roussseau as a young man, Fiona MacCarthy looks at women's bodies, Nicholas Shakespeare considers first novels and Brian Alderson examines children's picture books.

Getwick Airport: An eight-page Special Report looks at London's second airport.

US orders Cubans to leave

Two members of Cuba's mission to the United Nations were ordered to leave the United States after being accused of "hostile intelligence activities" in the New York area.

Senior Rolando Salas-Cano, a third secretary, and Senior Joaquin Rodolfo Pantoja-Cejas, an attaché, were given 24 hours to contest the expulsion order.

Benn's battles in three areas

Mr Wedgwood Benn's search for a new parliamentary seat will spread over three Bristol constituencies next month. After his expected failure in Bristol, South, he will face selection fights in Bristol, East, and Kingswood.

Papuso to go

Mr Stanco Papuso, the Romanian surgeon whose deportation from Britain last month led to widespread protests, has been ordered to leave Austria.

No appeal

The Court of Appeal refused leave for Paul Vickery, the surgeon who "poisoned" his disabled and mentally ill wife, to appeal against his conviction in November, 1981, for murder.

Kremlin conflict

Reports circulating in Moscow that factional struggles are persisting in the Kremlin have been reinforced by the failure of Mr Konstantin Chernenko, secretary of the Communist Party's Central Committee, to attend a key Politburo meeting.

Fire verdict

A verdict of manslaughter was recorded on a brother-in-law of Mr Michael Foot, Mr James Cochrane-Haigh, aged 74, who died after a fire at his Devon farmhouse.

'Scrap BNO'

Eso has called for the abolition of the state-owned British National Oil Corporation and BP and Shell favour a review of its role as North Sea oil price-setter.

Petrol doubt

American experience suggested that many motorists would be unhappy with unleaded low-octane petrol, a leading supplier of lead additives said, announcing it would continue to oppose the proposed ban.

Aberdeen final

Aberdeen reached the final of the European Cup Winners' Cup in Glasgow next month, despite losing 1-0 to Waterscheide in their semi-final second leg match in Belgium last night. Aberdeen won the first leg 5-1.

Special Reports today take a look at the world tea industry and report on the mood in Hongkong as Britain and China discuss the colony's future.

Leader page 15
Letters: On BL, from Mr G.H.B. Cantell; Services and unemployment, from Mr K.D. Jamieson, and others.
Leading articles: After the Beirut bomb; resumption of Madrid conference; TUC and Labour Party.
Features, pages 12, 13, 14
Why servicemen should be allowed to sue: Bernard Levin makes a telephone prayer; no carve-up for the SDP. Wednesday page: the foxhunting who begged a Tory: keeping cancer in perspective.
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Mr Jamie Page:

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British Steel cash 'to modernize' US mills

By Bailey Morris and Edward Townsend

British money would be used to modernize ageing American plants as part of a proposed joint venture with the British Steel Corporation. Congressional investigators were told by US Steel's chairman yesterday.

Mr David Roderick urged Congressmen to support the controversial venture which he said was in the vital interest of both companies.

"British Steel needs a market and can invest in a mill to ensure one. US Steel needs capital - both up front and from joint venture profits - to modernize our steelmaking and finishing facilities at our plants across the country," Mr Roderick said.

He disclosed that the first \$400m (£256m) in profits earned from the proposed joint venture would be used to refurbish the 20-year-old Fairless steel works near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In addition, part of the capital arranged by British Steel would be used to modernize other out-dated US Steel plants.

Last night, BSC continued the silence it has so far maintained over the proposed deal. Despite considerable publicity in recent weeks, the corporation has not even admitted that it has been in discussion with US Steel.

At the end of last month, Mr Ian MacGregor, BSC chairman, said that premature leaks had jeopardized the chances of success of such a project and the BSC's competitors were "waiting in the wings" to take over the deal.

The scheme could lead to up to half of the 4,000 workers at BSC's Ravenscraig steel plant in Lanarkshire losing their jobs and as many as 3,000 at Fairless. United Kingdom steel union leaders have opposed the deal but Mr MacGregor has told ministers that a drastic cutback at Ravenscraig is the only way to give it a chance of becoming profitable.

Continued on back page, col 4

American duo likely to win Sotheby's

By Geraldine Norman

Sale Room Correspondent

Mr Marshall Cogan and Mr Stephen Swid, the American duo bidding for Sotheby's, the auctioneers, are likely to win control unless a higher bid is made in the next two weeks.

Mr Gordon Brunton, the chairman of Sotheby's, said yesterday that he had also heard that the Americans now owned 50 per cent of the company.

This was denied, however, by Mr Swid, a director of the American company General Felt Industries/Knoll International. "We are not saying that we have a majority of the stock, but we do expect that by May 4 we will own over 50 per cent."

The confusion seems to have arisen because under takeover rules in Britain and America, Mr Swid is not yet allowed to buy the necessary shares although he expects to have arranged the legal clearances by early May.

However, there is nothing to prevent the owners of Sotheby's shares giving Mr Swid an unofficial "yes" to his offer. Since more than half of Sotheby's shares appear to be now held by Americans it is likely that this will happen.

Mr Swid is therefore confident that his bid will succeed, provided no other party comes in and offers the shareholders a more lucrative alternative. Mr Marshall Cogan, Mr Swid's partner, appears to have made this plain in telephone conver-



Mr Cogan and Mr Swid

sations that he has had in recent days with some of the Sotheby's staff.

Their success rate on contacting staff seems however, to remain low. "Marshall has had a meeting with one and I have spoken at length for half an hour, with one gentleman," Mr Swid said. He also claims that some experts on both sides of the Atlantic have rung them but declines to give names. In making the calls the experts were "giving negative peer reaction," he explained.

In London, Mr Brunton denies the Americans' allegation that he has made any move to "ban" contacts with Sotheby's staff. He had asked the staff at the beginning of the year whether they wished for a meeting with Mr Cogan and Mr Swid and more than 40 had declined. But no pressure had been brought to bear on any individual.

Mr Brunton says that Sotheby's formal defence document will be ready at the beginning of next week. Meanwhile, he strongly suggests that a rival bidder is still a possibility.

The 'Famous Five' are reduced to three



Ousted: Anna Ford at home with her daughter Clare after being told of her dismissal.

Ford and Rippon swept out by new broom

By John Witherow

The "Famous Five" of TV-am's commercial breakfast television show became the "Famous Three" yesterday with the dismissal of two of the star presenters, Anna Ford and Angela Rippon. The move came a week after the appointment of Mr Timothy Aitken as chief executive and is seen as part of a determined bid to reverse the decline in ratings and confidence in the company.

Miss Ford yesterday morning and was handed a letter stating she had been dismissed. "It said my contract had been terminated for a particular reason and I've given it to my solicitor to see what he says," Miss Ford, who is 39, said. Miss Rippon was called in soon afterwards and was also dismissed.

Although Miss Ford refused to give details, TV-am employees said the women were dismissed for talking to the press after the removal of Mr Peter Jay as chief executive. Both appeared outside the company's Camden Lock studios in north London carrying placards in support of Mr Jay.

Mr Michael Parkinson, who with his wife Mary, hosts the weekend *Good Morning Britain* show, said last night that Miss Ford and Miss Rippon had been "lously and shabbily treated" and that he was reconsidering his own future with the company.

"I've been reconsidering my future ever since Peter Jay was sacked," he said. "It's not the company we put together and I think there were ways of handling the situation better. I'm very upset and bitter. The company we formed has gone. We lost. It's a question of

do I want to play with the new team?"

Mr Parkinson said he had seen Miss Ford after her dismissal and she "looked terribly white. All she said was: 'I've been sacked.' They were called in like in front of a headmaster. Surely we are all too grown up for that? I'm just baffled, mystified, I can't see the sense of it."

"How can you sack people for things they said in a time of extreme stress and emotion? Anyway, it's absurd for anyone not to have their own opinion. I'm not supposed to be speaking to the press and that's what they were sacked for. I don't think the situation can get any worse. You don't solve your problems by getting rid of two of the star players."

Miss Ford, speaking at her home in Brentford, Middlesex, while holding her 15-month-old daughter Clare, said: "I feel shocked. It was somewhat unexpected. I am officially on holiday and was not due to start work again until June."

She added that she had a two-year contract with the company and it seemed that the company had now broken it. Asked about her 2.5 per cent shareholding, she replied: "I don't know what will happen to that. It's an interesting point."

Miss Ford and Miss Rippon were reported to be earning nearly £70,000 a year each.

Mr Robert Kee, who recently transferred from being a presenter to conducting interviews, said last night: "I can't discuss the internal affairs of the company, as it says in my contract."

Continued on back page, col 5

Maggie May or may not choose June

By Julian Haviland and Anthony Bevins

The Prime Minister last night continued her tantalizing tease about the timing of the next election, with a reference to the song *Maggie May*.

She told the annual dinner of the Confederation of British Industry, at the Hilton Hotel in London, that some people were talking of the end of the Parliament, "a little prematurely, I think."

"It reminds me of the old song *Maggie May*. Some say *Maggie May* never says *Maggie May* set, a son-only say *Maggie May* when the time comes, I shall decide."

But Mrs Thatcher then added: "Right now, I am more concerned with the job in hand."

She also gave a measure of her own plans when she revealed that she would be looking for a young school-leaver to join the staff of 10 Downing Street under the Youth Training Scheme.

"I hope that he or she will receive a good grounding during the year with us. Perhaps one day, who knows, the training in No 10 will be of use in applying for my job, in the next century!"

Mrs Thatcher said the Government had laid the foundations for recovery with cuts in taxation; with a £2,000m reduction in the national insurance surcharge, and equally important reductions in personal taxes.

But she also stressed that there was another, unseen tax: inflation. "Yes, inflation is a tax, and a savage and capricious one which Government's im-

Rank Xerox to cut 1,100 more jobs

The Rank Xerox company has announced it will be axing a further 1,100 jobs from its plant in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire over the next two years. The company, which produces copying machines at the Mitcheldean factory, last month said 500 jobs would have to go by the end of June.

Yesterday's announcement followed speculation that the Gloucestershire plant would be closed completely but Mr Dick Holmes, the European director, who carries out union representatives to tell them of the news, said this was not the case.

"Instead, the work force will be reduced from the present 2,700 to just over 1,600 by the end of 1984. It is a regrettable decision brought about by technical advancement and the need to remain competitive in a keen world market," he said.

It is a disastrous blow to jobs in an area which already has a high unemployment level of 14 per cent.

Thousands of jobs are expected to disappear over the next four years in a radical reorganization of Central Electricity Generating Board management. It was disclosed yesterday that the intention is to reduce the number of staff in the 55,000-strong industry by office staff and highly-qualified engineers and scientists. Under the proposed scheme, the board's regional headquarters at Bristol; Stockport; Greater Manchester; Harrogate, North Yorkshire; Solihull, West Midlands; and Bankside in London are to be wound down.

BL hope of deal by Friday

By Clifford Webb

There was guarded optimism on both sides last night that although hard bargaining still lay ahead, the three-week strike at BL's Cowley assembly plant could end on Friday, when the men hold their next mass meeting.

National officers of the two main unions involved met local officials and shop stewards yesterday to discuss the result of seven hours of talks on Monday between union leaders and management. Mr Harold Musgrove, chairman of Austin Rover, has said the company will not drop its plans to end

early leaving, but offered to increase bonus earnings on the day the men accept "bell to bell" working. He set a deadline of May 16 for that to begin.

A mass meeting of 1,200 of the 5,000 on strike voted by a large majority yesterday to stay out while negotiations were making place and to meet on Friday.

Cowley is one of the few plants remaining in Austin Rover which does not have Audited Plants Status (APS), a formula linking payments to international standards of efficiency. As a result, Cowley's bonus ceiling is only £18.75 a

week compared with £30 at Longbridge.

One of the main obstacles to the introduction of APS at Cowley has been the tradition of leaving three minutes early, which the company says costs it 100 cars a week, worth £50m a year. APS would be introduced on May 16 if the men accepted the deal. The intention is to increase production of the new Maestro from 2,200 a week to 2,750.

The stewards would still like to see a direct lump sum "buy out" of early leaving.

James Curran, page 14
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Death toll grows as rescuers comb Beirut wreckage

From Robert Fisk

Red Cross workers digging through the ruins of the American Embassy in Beirut broke through to the crushed cafeteria section of the building yesterday afternoon and found another five bodies embedded in the masonry, bringing the total number of dead in Monday's bombing to forty-seven - and with the prospect of even this grim figure moving far higher.

The latest bodies to be recovered were taken from the rubble in white plastic bags and carried to a tent where relatives of those still missing were waiting in misery to identify the dead.

They knew what they would have to see because, as Mr Robert Dillon, the American Ambassador, announced bleakly during the morning, the Red

Cross thought it very unlikely that anyone would still be found alive.

The embassy was crowded with visitors and cleaning staff as well as diplomatic personnel when the bomb exploded at lunchtime, so neither the Americans nor the Lebanese police authorities know exactly how many people were in the building at the time - nor how many dead are still to be discovered.

In the hours after the assault on the embassy, diplomats from countries which are also contributing troops to the multinational peace keeping force in Beirut - including the British - have been trying to work out new security procedures that might prevent the same fate befalling their own compounds.



Mr John Reid, embassy press officer: Hurt in blast.

British Embassy - like its American opposite number - stands unpleasantly exposed on the Mediterranean Boulevard in

West Beirut, flanked by a small but busy roadway.

Although cars are not permitted to park outside the four-storey building, only one Lebanese policeman, with an automatic rifle, stands guard outside - he can scarcely offer much protection against the sort of determined men who slaughtered so many people just down the same road on Monday.

Mr Dillon was more forthcoming about them yesterday, saying that while he was still unsure of the facts, there were eyewitness reports that a large van filled with explosives forced its way into the forecourt of the Embassy, "two competent witnesses." He said, "saw a very heavily-loaded van force its way in. How it was detonated, I don't know."

Two Lebanese men have told the Beirut police authorities that they saw a man in a black

leather jacket drive the van into the northern end of the embassy driveway, apparently detonating the explosives and killing himself at the same time, although the Americans have not yet subscribed to the theory that the killer was on a suicidal mission.

Lebanese and American bomb disposal officers believe that as much as 500lb of hexogene - four times as powerful as TNT - was set off.

Of the 47 dead, 16 are believed to be Americans.

A Briton was among those killed in the bombing. He was Sergeant Richard Twine, aged 36, who had served in the American Army for the past 18 years and who was due to be demobbed in two years, the Press Association reports.

Stabbed in Beirut, page 6
Leading article, page 13

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Surgeon who poisoned his wife told case against him was 'overwhelming'

By David Nicholson-Lord

A surgeon who poisoned his disabled mentally ill wife with a rare cancer drug known as CCNU was yesterday told his conviction for murder was "overwhelming".

The case against Paul Vickers, aged 48 and formerly head of the accident department at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead, was "overwhelming", Lord Justice Lawton, presiding, said at the Court of Appeal.

"It was about as strong a case of poisoning as I can remember in a long period in the law", the judge added.

At Teesside Crown Court in November, 1981, Vickers, of Moor Crescent, Gosforth, was sentenced to life imprisonment, with a recommendation that he serve a minimum term of 17 years. Grounds for appeal included alleged defects in the trial judge's summing-up.

Lord Justice Lawton praised the summing-up of Mr Justice Boreham, the trial judge, as a masterpiece in an exceedingly

difficult case. The judge made one slip in overstating a piece of medical evidence against Vickers, but it was not significant.

"Right from the very beginning Vickers had behaved as no responsible medical practitioner could conceivably have behaved", Lord Justice Lawton added. "He must have known this drug was dangerous but he administered it, hiding it from his professional colleagues."

"He took none of the special precautions and he did his best to hide the fact that this drug had anything to do with his wife by putting false names on the prescriptions he wrote out."

An application to call evidence from three *News of the World* reporters over a newspaper article on Miss Pamela Collinson, Vickers' codefendant, was rejected. Lord Justice Lawton said quotations by Miss Collinson contradicted an unsworn statement she made from the dock but the newspaper account was "rubbish" and of no value as evidence.

Miss Collinson, aged 35, had an affair with Vickers and was alleged to have tried to blackmail him into marriage by taking photographs of prescriptions. She was acquitted of murder but received a six-month suspended prison sentence for dishonestly obtaining CCNU.

Lord Justice Lawton said Miss Collinson was kept "under wraps" by the journalists for two weeks and questioned for hours after her arrest. "If she had been treated by the police as she was treated by the press, what value would the evidence have been?", he asked.

Mr Gilbert Gray, QC, for Vickers, applied for the admission of evidence of a knife attack by Miss Collinson on another woman in a demonstrative, he said, that she was not a "sweet, naive, innocent girl".

The Court of Appeal rejected that on the ground that it was too remote from the case.



Sir Anthony Jolliffe, the Lord Mayor of London entertained to lunch at Guildhall yesterday Major John Qain and Lance Corporal Michael Rowley, of 33 Engineer Regiment, who made safe the Second World War bomb found in the Thames on April 11 (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

Low octane unleaded fuel 'causes knocking'

By Jonathan Davis
Energy Correspondent

Many motorists will find two-star unleaded petrol unsatisfactory when it is introduced, the monopoly supplier of petrol lead additive in Britain predicted yesterday.

Associated Octel, which produces more than 95 per cent of all the lead alkyls used in the manufacture of British petrol, said that American experience suggested three in ten motorists would find the performance of low octane unleaded petrol unsatisfactory.

The company is keeping up its fight against the banning of all lead compounds from petrol, in spite of the Government's endorsement of the Royal Commission report on Monday, recommending the phasing out of all lead in petrol by 1990.

A spokesman for the company said that 22 per cent of motorists in the United States who had cars designed to run on unleaded petrol were buying higher octane fuel than they needed because they were unhappy with the engine "knocking" produced by two-star unleaded petrol.

Associated Octel, which is owned by five leading oil companies, said that the decision to introduce two-star unleaded petrol by 1990 would inevitably cast a shadow over the job prospects of its 2,700 British employees. The company, which has a turnover of £200m a year, most of it exported, employs 2,200 people in Ellesmere Port, Merseyside.

The Government's decision to opt for two-star unleaded petrol in preference to the introduction of unleaded petrol with a higher octane rating has been broadly welcomed by the oil industry.

Such a move requires minimal new investment at oil refineries and means that the financial burden of the changeover will be borne largely by the motor industry, which will have to introduce new engines at a cost of between £100m and £350m. Oil companies had been worried that they would be asked to modify their refineries to produce higher grade unleaded petrol.

In its report the Royal Commission was at pains to counter the charge that introducing unleaded petrol would lead to a significant increase in petrol pump prices. It recommended that the tax on unleaded and leaded petrol should be adjusted to ensure that the price of unleaded petrol never exceeded that of the highest grade leaded petrol.

Ice-cream by the sea tops poll

An ice-cream at the seaside still represents the ideal summer day out for British children, according to a survey published yesterday.

Walls, the ice-cream makers, asked more than 1,000 children what food or drink they have on a summer outing. Ice-cream or ice-lollies were the favourite of 55 per cent. Only 12 per cent usually had a hamburger. Even adults rated ice-cream second only to a drink in a public house.

A day trip to the seaside was the most popular summer pastime for adults and children alike.

The Walls survey follows news last week that ice-cream sales in Britain reached a record £370m for 1982, despite previous drops in profits. The children also rated ice-cream the most popular pudding when eating out before games, trips or strawberries and cream.

Owner of pet calf fined

Aaron Smith, a horse dealer, of Rectory Lane, Bannockburn, Surrey, was fined £50 by Guildford magistrates yesterday after pleading guilty to transporting a steer in a way likely to cause it injury or unnecessary suffering.

Mr Ian Brewer, prosecuting for the RSPCA, said that a calf bought by Smith as a family pet injured a leg while being driven home from market in his van.

Pensioner hit by police car

An inquest in Liverpool was told yesterday that retired watchman, aged 81, died after being hit by a police car, answering an emergency call which drove through red traffic lights.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death on Mr Frederick Thomas of Belmont Drive, Newsham Park. No charges will be brought against Constable Anthony Evans, who was driving the car.

Nuclear power plant to open

The £1,000m Heysham 1 nuclear power station in Lancashire will begin operation in the next two weeks. The station, powered by an advanced gas-cooled reactor, is seven years behind schedule.

Mr Alan Finley, National Nuclear Corporation overseas affairs manager, told a British Nuclear Forum conference in Manchester yesterday that design modifications caused delays.

RAF jet crashes

An RAF Jaguar fighter from No 6 Squadron, Coltishall, Norfolk, crashed into the North Sea 30 miles from Cromer yesterday. The pilot ejected safely and was picked up by helicopter.

Tax relief lost after error

Thousands of home owners with bank mortgages are losing tax relief because of an administrative blunder by the Inland Revenue. About 30,000 home owners in Scotland were not included on the mortgage interest relief at source scheme (Miras) at the beginning of this financial year because of incorrect data and lack of supervision at Scotland's main tax office, Centre 1, in East Kilbride.

Those affected have also had loan interest removed from their PAYE code, leaving them thousands of pounds worse off. The Inland Revenue accepts responsibility for the error.

12,500 to run

Glasgow's marathon on September 11 is expected to attract its limit of 12,500 runners, more than double the total in the first run last year.

Child blood pressure 'should be checked'

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Children's blood pressure should be recorded from the time they start school at five years old as regularly as checks of their height, weight, hearing and sight, a heart specialist said yesterday.

Prof Alastair Breckenridge of Liverpool University said that as a preventive measure a routine check on children could be more effective in identifying individuals at risk from a heart attack than the screening of 40 and 50-year-olds.

He said that evidence emerging from research showed that people prone to high blood pressure started veering towards the "high track" as early as the age of two.

The discovery that children divide into "low and high tracks" at such an early age comes from a continuing study begun six years ago of 2,000 babies in the London Borough of Bromley by Dr Elliott Shinebourne of the Brompton Hospital and a local team of doctors, nurses and technicians.

While doctors might suggest straightforward measures, such as changes in diet, to help a child who is seen to have blood

pressure veering on the high side, the research data is not complete enough to devise a national programme of intervention as a preventive measure.

But doctors reviewing advances at a special meeting of the British Heart Foundation entitled "Five Years Back and Five Years Forward in Cardiovascular Research" regarded this as one of the important advances to come.

Dr Tom Meade, director of the foundation's research group at Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow, was disappointed by the conclusion of an international investigation by the World Health Organisation into the influence of life style on heart attacks. The effects of diet and smoking and regular health checks, had rather less influence on preventing heart diseases than had been hoped.

While it confirmed that factors like a high fat diet could cause heart attacks by producing high fat levels in the blood, the reduction of risk from more prudent diets was not very large.

Drink to blame, Best says

George Best, the footballer, who faces debts of £115,418, admitted in the London Bankruptcy Court yesterday that his downfall was due to drink. "I am an alcoholic and have had a drink problem for 12 years", he said.

Mr John Booth, assistant official receiver, told Mr Best that his income had been spent on gambling, drinking and expensive cars.

Mr Booth criticised Mr Best, the former Manchester United and Northern Ireland international, now with Bournemouth, for not producing a "single scrap of paper" about his financial affairs. The inland

Revenue has a claim against Mr Best for £18,686.

Asked why he had not paid his tax debts after receiving £20,000 from a biography written by Michael Parkinson in 1981 entitled *Where Do I Go From Here?*, Mr Best replied: "I offered to pay them £10,000, but they refused. I have to live. The money went on supporting my wife and child."

The only asset of Mr Best, aged 37, of Glasgow Road, Uddingston, Glasgow, was said to be £14,000, an interest in a Scottish company.

The public examination was adjourned to July 26.

Penlee inquiry

Controller 'not to blame'

From Our Correspondent, Penzance

Mr Robbie Roberts, coastguard district controller, was in no way responsible for the loss of the lifeboat, the 1,400-ton coaster *Union Star*, and the 16 people on board the two vessels, Mr Noel Horner told the Penlee lifeboat inquiry in Penzance yesterday.

Mr Horner is representing the Smith and Wallis families, each of which lost a son on the lifeboat. He said he would not proceed with criticisms of Mr Roberts. "We have no evidence. He did his best."

Mr Horner reminded the court that Mr Gerald Darling, QC, for the Department of Trade, had said of a witness Mr John Douglas, former chief inspector of coastguards, that the circumstances of his dismissal from the coastguard could not possibly entitle him to be an unbiased witness about the coastguard.

Ex-PC guilty of trying to run down wife

Rodney Kettle, a former policeman, was convicted at Manchester Crown Court yesterday of trying to run down his wife Ann, in a car.

He was remanded in custody for sentence on May 23. Judge Arthur Prest QC ordered that Kettle, who holds commendations for bravery, should undergo psychiatric tests.

The judge said: "It appears that when he was a member of the Royal Artillery he served in Northern Ireland and there was a tragic incident - but there is no reason to suggest he was to blame - when either a sniper or a young child was shot by a gun Kettle held."

Kettle had represented himself, falsely, to be a member of the SAS, suffered from nightmares, attempted to take his own life, and the judge said a report on him concluded that he lived in a fantasy world.



Rodney Kettle: "mad with passion"

Kettle, of St John's Avenue, Warrington, had been found guilty of attempting to cause grievous bodily harm to his wife, a former beauty queen, last August.

The prosecution alleged that

Legal doubt on 'womb leasing'

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

Womb leasing, the practice of a woman bearing a child for a woman bearing a child for payment, was condemned as undesirable by the Law Society yesterday.

In its evidence to the Warnock inquiry on human fertilisation and embryology, it proposed it should be a criminal offence for a woman to offer the reward to bear a child for another, and for anyone to offer such reward or act as an agent.

Any contract for the natural insemination by a man of a woman, intending later adoption of the child by a couple including one of the natural parents, was almost certainly illegal, the society claimed. It could be more forcible, because contracts for sexual intercourse were against public policy.

A paper by the society's family law committee also says that artificial insemination to allow couples to give birth to their children should be permitted only for husbands and wives, or couples living together.

The society says that with the increasing use of artificial insemination (AID), there is a danger of genetic incest.

"Where doctors or others offer artificial insemination on a large scale with semen of concealed or unidentified origin, the prospects of half-brothers and sisters meeting and mating increase almost exponentially."

To deal with that the use of AID and children resulting from it could be recorded, birth certificates being coded with a letter.

Genetic engineering, to artificially create children by such processes as *in vitro* fertilisation (test tube babies) should be allowed where it was in the interests of the future child. The same applied to associated research.

Experiments involving the use of human genetic material, in particular cloning experiments, should be forbidden. These did not appear to have any proper role in human affairs.

Jail threat over tree felling

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Mr Hugh Batchelor, a Kent farmer, was yesterday given a six-month suspended jail sentence for defying a High Court injunction not to cut down trees on his estate at Hollingbourne.

Mr Justice Hodgson said the court took the gravest possible view of the fact that its authority had been so flagrantly disobeyed. He warned Mr Batchelor that if he ever broke his undertaking to respect all preservation orders by so much as a single hack on a tree, he would inevitably go to prison.

Mr George Newman, QC, for Mr Batchelor, said the changing of the prison doors during the 14-days which his client spent in Pentonville earlier this month had a marked effect on his attitude as to the seriousness, gravity and regard he must show for court orders in future.

Mr Michael Gale, QC, for Maidstone district council, told the court that on February 17 this year it had come to the council's attention that the defendant had bought the Howe Court estate. He was said to have paid about £1m for the 940 acres.

The ancient Pilgrims' Way runs across the estate. The trees which had been destroyed had previously formed part of the view for people walking along both the Pilgrims' Way and the North Downs Way, and the landscape had been designated

an area of outstanding natural beauty.

The defendant was known to be a devotee of modern intensive farming methods which involved creating vast fields without any trees or hedgerows. In the light of that knowledge the council had very rapidly made a number of tree preservation orders under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1971.

The first order had been issued on February 21 and others had followed on February 23 and 24. On February 24 it was observed that Mr Batchelor had started felling the trees, and the council immediately

applied for and received an ex-parte injunction.

There was no doubt that at this stage Mr Batchelor was fully aware of the orders and of the terms of the injunction. Yet in spite of undertaking given through his solicitor, further breaches of the injunction promptly occurred.

Witnesses confirmed that a number of trees which were still standing on February 24 had all gone by March 2. In these circumstances the council sent the defendant a letter notifying him that he was in contempt of court and that it intended to apply for a committal order.

After further breaches of the injunction, Mr Justice Drake committed the defendant to prison for 20 days on March 30. He was released with remission after serving 14 days.

The main concern of the council was to prevent further breaches of the preservation orders, Mr Gale said. It was therefore content that any further sentence should be suspended.

During the hearing, supporters of Friends of the Earth demonstrated outside the court buildings. Afterwards Mr Steve Bilcliffe, the group's director, described the decision as a landmark in conservation law, and the first time to his knowledge that legislation governing tree preservation had been enforced to the hilt.

Mr Batchelor: Must not use his axe

Arts Council praise for town centre mosaic

By Christopher Warnock, Arts Correspondent

A mosaic costing £125,000, the largest work of art to be publicly commissioned in Britain this century, was unveiled in the centre of Redditch, Hereford and Worcester, by Sir William Rees-Mogg, chairman of the Arts Council, yesterday.

The 12 mosaic panels which make up the work, each measuring 21ft by 10ft, are by Eduardo Paoletti and were commissioned by the Redditch Development Corporation for the Kingsfisher shopping centre. These are 20ft above ground and line a piazza in the

shopping centre.

Sir William said the work, to which the council contributed £7,500, would give enjoyment and interest to countless people for the next 100 years or more. "I hope this will be an example to other public and private bodies."

He called on those contemplating putting up buildings to look to Redditch and Paoletti's work. "I hope it will have a powerful influence in spreading similar work throughout the country."

Two CND observers for Prague

By Nicholas Timmins

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is to send two observers to the meeting of the Soviet-backed World Peace Council in Prague this summer. The decision is likely to be seen by opponents as evidence of Soviet sympathies within CND.

Mr Bruce Kent, general secretary of CND, said: "We are going into this with our eyes open. We are well aware that some will try and use this as a weapon against us."

The CND representatives, he said, would make their position perfectly clear: that they were only there as observers. They would be making a speech attacking Soviet arms sales to the Third World, on the illusion of nuclear parity and calling for a unilateral cut in the deployment of Soviet SS20 missiles.

It should be recognized that constructive proposals had been made by Eastern block, he said. "We do not want to appear naive, but honesty demands that we communicate where we can."

The decision to send observers, was taken by CND's 120-strong national council at the weekend by a four to three majority, Mr Kent said.

The Ministry of Defence yesterday reacted with caution to the campaign's challenge to distribute government leaflets on cruise, Trident and the nuclear debate with CND's own leaflets on the issues, as part of a "public education" advertising campaign it plans to launch shortly.

A Ministry spokesman said: "We are, of course, keen to encourage informed public debate about nuclear disarmament. But we would want to see exactly what CND proposes to do with our literature before taking a view on whether we would want to allow them to do it."

The Royal Charter for the University of Buckingham is now officially sealed.

The University of Buckingham, formerly The University College at Buckingham, has now achieved full university status. It is Britain's only independent university and provides unique features in university education while retaining the traditional British emphasis on small-group teaching.

- * Two-year degree course (BA, BSc, BSc(Econ), LLB)
- * Four ten-week terms per calendar year
- * Programme of inter-disciplinary supporting courses, including modern languages, for all undergraduates
- * January start for courses, with an additional Law intake in July

Applications may be made immediately for the two-year Law degree beginning this July, or at any time for degrees beginning in January in the following subject areas:

ACCOUNTING, BUSINESS, and ECONOMICS,
HISTORY, POLITICS, and ENGLISH,
EUROPEAN STUDIES (3 years),
LIFE SCIENCES,
LAW (also a July entry),
POLITICS, ECONOMICS, and LAW.

Postgraduate courses are also offered and there is an expanding programme of research.

Applications are made direct to the Admissions Officer, not through UCCA. Opened as The University College at Buckingham by the Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher in 1976, Buckingham had as its first Principal Professor Max Beloff, (now Lord Beloff), who was succeeded in 1980 by Professor Alan Peacock, now Vice-Chancellor. The Chancellor of the University is Lord Hailsham.

For further information please write to:

The Admissions Officer, The University of Buckingham,
Buckingham MK18 1EG, or telephone Buckingham (0280) 814080

The University of Buckingham

PARLIAMENT April 19 1983

Nationalist fails to get writ for Cardiff issued

BY-ELECTION

A move by Plaid Cymru, the Welsh nationalist party, to force the Government to issue writs for a by-election in Cardiff, North-West, held by the late Mr Michael Roberts, Under Secretary of State for Wales, was rejected by the Commons.

Mr Dafydd Wigley (Caernarvon, Pl Cymru) moved that the speaker "do issue writs" for the holding of the by-election and Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, successfully moved an amendment, carried by a majority of 294, that this should be done on May 10, after the local government elections. According to Mr Wigley, this meant the by-election could be as late as Thursday, June 9.

Mr Wigley said that after the death of Mr Roberts on February 10 the people needed to be represented in Parliament at a time when such important legislation such as the Finance Bill, the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill and the Data Protection Bill were going through the House.

Secondly, with escalating unemployment, controversy about a nuclear bomb factory in the constituency and a threat to the health service, which was a major employer in Cardiff, North-West, there were many constituency issues which needed to be debated urgently. A by-election gave an opportunity for this in a way that had the eye of the media and the attention of ministers.

Thirdly, the four parties had been agreed for such an election since March. The candidates had long been chosen and all had started on aspects of their campaigns.

May 5 had once been a hot favourite for such an election that Conservative Central Office on

Monday deemed it appropriate to inform the Press Gallery that there would not be a by-election then.

Deliberately or accidentally (he continued) the electors and parties had been led a merry dance by the Government's shilly shallying on this election and it is time for the uncertainty to be stopped.

He would doubtless be accused of breaking the convention that the party holding the seat should decide the by-election date. But this was a convention and not an immutable rule. The convention was for the guidance of wise men and the slavish obedience of fools.

The Government did not wish to have this by-election at all. If there was to be a general election, in case the vibrations from Cardiff rocked the Tory election gambit off its course.

If there is to be a general election (he said) let the Government come clean now.

The Government feared a bad result in Cardiff. It feared more having to debate issues such as unemployment, the devastating cuts in social and other services. Neither did the Government want the Falklands factor rebounding on it in such a by-election as electors started questioning the wisdom or folly of the Government's policy.

The Government hoped the by-election could be subsumed within the general election.

The touchiness of the Government on this by-election (he said) is a touchstone of its vulnerability in a general election when it eventually takes place.

Mr Biffen said that although there were no fixed rules, there were conventions and generally accepted guidelines.

The main conclusion of the Speaker's conference on electoral law held in 1973 set out in a letter

stop this practice once and for all?

Mr Clarke: There are very clear arrangements under which a limited extent final year medical students can take part in treatment, and we will take seriously any allegations that the arrangements are not being followed. At the moment, however, we are not aware of any such allegations.

Mr Peter Viggers (Gosport, C): Students under proper control have always taken care of patients and without this opportunity it would not be possible for them to gain experience.

Mr Clarke: That is entirely right. It cannot be the case in the practice of medicine that someone can be turned overnight from a student into a qualified doctor.

That is why final year students are allowed to take over some duties when their house officer is on leave and no one, has ever objected to that. If anyone can give us evidence of the arrangements not being followed, we will take steps to make sure that the proper arrangements are followed.

Mr Clarke: Under long-standing arrangements agreed with the medical profession and the universities final year medical students may assist in hospitals when a house officer is absent on leave.

I have received a very brief report from the representatives of junior hospital doctors outlining nine cases of alleged abuse of these arrangements. In only one case is it alleged that a student initiated treatment.

I have asked the British Medical Association for further details.

Mr Price: Is not this a scandalous situation? Has the minister received the letter I wrote to the Secretary of State on April 13 in which a very experienced state registered nurse in my constituency alleges that it is common practice in Lewisham Hospital for the students to be given the keys of their houseman who is meant to be on duty and his final year students now may have responsibility for patients who in many cases are very ill indeed. What is he going to do when he receives the report of the BMA: is he going to

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Wigley: Electors being led a merry dance.

on November 26 by the late Mr Speaker Lloyd to the then Prime Minister, was that the motion for a by-election writ should normally be moved within three months of a vacancy arising. In this case that period would not lapse for three months.

Furthermore, it was concluded that it was unacceptable for a by-election to be held at the time of local elections in April or May and this was relevant in this case.

Finally, there was the convention that the party whose member formerly occupied the seat should have priority in choosing the date of the by-election. He regretted Mr Wigley had disregarded customary practice. On this occasion the Government was within the conventional practices.

He moved an amendment to provide that the Speaker could issue the writ for the by-election on Tuesday, May 10.

Mr John Silkin, Opposition spokesman on House of Commons affairs, supporting the amendment, said he had sympathy with much of what Mr Wigley had said to say, but while there might be a case for changing the rules and conventions, the proper place for changing it was through a Speaker's conference.

Mr Wigley said a move for a writ on May 10 would be on the last possible day within the three-month convention and would mean the by-election could be as late as Thursday, June 9.

The Government amendment was carried by 306 votes to 60 - Government majority 246, and the amended motion agreed to.

Mr Clarke: There are very clear arrangements under which a limited extent final year medical students can take part in treatment, and we will take seriously any allegations that the arrangements are not being followed. At the moment, however, we are not aware of any such allegations.

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Foot says Labour is ready for general election

PM's QUESTIONS

Prolonged Conservative laughter greeted Mr Michael Foot's assertion during Prime Minister's questions that Labour was happy to have a general election at any time.

During the exchanges, Mrs Thatcher accused a laughing Mr Denis Healey, deputy leader of the Opposition, of being frightened of an election. She appeared to be replying to an interjection by Mr Healey inaudible to those not on the front benches.

Mr Foot, asked Mrs Thatcher whether she had been correctly reported at the weekend when she claimed that she would be the first Prime Minister to go to the country with a lower inflation rate than she inherited.

She inherited a lower inflation from the previous Labour government (he said) than the one she left to us as a member of the Heath government.

Mrs Thatcher: Assuming that the forecasts on inflation are reasonable and even if it went up a bit in the coming months - (Interruptions and protest) - even if prices increase went up a little... (Lord Labour interruptions and protest).

Mr Healey is afraid of an election: he is frightened. Our record of 13

years is one he could not even begin to tackle.

Mr Foot: If Mrs Thatcher is now going to join the Chancellor in favour of a cut and run election it will make excellent news throughout the country because we are happy to have it. (Loud and prolonged Conservative laughter).

I just want if I can to extract from her whether she is going for an election now or even if she does not, but given the cut and run she is giving the figures and facts, will she try to give the true figures to the country and acknowledge that she inherited a much lower inflation figure than the one she left when she was a member of Mr Heath's Government?

Mrs Thatcher: Our performance on inflation is far better than her best and our performance on the upper level is not nearly as bad as her worst. He cannot get away from that.

Mr Foot: Does her reply not mean that the figures given by her to the country are false?

Mrs Thatcher: I do not recollect giving any specific figures at the weekend. Will Mr Foot quote them? I did not give any specific figures at the weekend on inflation. Inflation is lower than for some 12 to 13 years and that happened under this Government.

Mr John MacGregor, Under Secretary of State for Industry (South Norfolk, C) moved a Government amendment to make the motion read: "That this House recognises that the prosperity of East Anglia depends on continued success in the Government's policies to keep down inflation and restore competitiveness to the economy."

He said firms and growth and development of small businesses upon which many Government measures are concentrated, and the further development of its highly productive agriculture within the common agricultural policy and notes that in every respect the Labour Party's present policies would have a disastrous effect upon the region's considerable potential.

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Publicity by opticians

An immediate review of the rules for publicity by opticians is being undertaken with a view to laying proposals for changes of the rules before the General Optical Council on June 23, Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister for Consumer Affairs, said.

He said that he welcomed this first step towards lessening restrictions on competition which the

Director General of Fair Trading had identified.

Dr Vaughan said that he was giving attention to the restrictions on competition, particularly in relation to the advertising of opticians' trading practices, and on which he had received many representations from consumers.

order to make money. Because that is their motive they have a financial incentive to undertake treatment in situations where it should not be given and to cut corners at the risk of the patient.

The partnership of which he has been a part for many years, the NHS really means that the service must often repair the damage done by private doctors.

That is incidentally not only injustice to the patient but also a burden on the health service.

Mr Fowler: The ability of consultants to work inside the private sector has existed since the inception of the NHS and under successive Labour Governments.

The only alternative that he can put forward is the abolition of pay beds and the banning of all private sector medicine. The public will choose on that and choose against him.

Concessionary TV licences

Mr Allan McKay (Penistone, Lab) was given leave to introduce a Bill to give concessionary television licences for old age pensioners.

For many pensioners, he said, television was a necessity of life, providing entertainment, companionship and a sense of security, and keeping them informed of local and national news. The existing scheme was unfair to the majority of pensioners and an equitable scheme was needed for everyone, irrespective of what type of dwelling they lived in.

He paid tribute to Sheffield Metropolitan Council for exploiting a legal loophole to provide licences for 4,000 people by employing wardens to make four visits a year to pensioners so they would qualify for a concessionary licence.

The Bill was read a first time.

Mr Oliver Walston is a "grain baron" and makes no secret of his prosperity. He farms 3,000 acres of high quality land in Cambridgeshire and, as a broadcaster on Anglia Television and a contributor to farming magazines, he delights in infuriating his fellow farmers by telling them how rich they are and how grateful they should be.

His one regret is having got rid of his sheep three years ago. "Everyone else was doing the same," he points out. Since then the introduction of a new subsidy system has transformed sheep farming into what, a trifle exaggeratedly, he terms a licence to print money.

"But basically on a farm like this it is all good news. It has been good news for the last decade. My neighbours hate me for saying so, and wish I would keep my head down. They have been brought up to think it is OK to moan about how badly off you are, but extremely bad form to say how well off you are. That is typically British."

He attributes his good fortune almost entirely to his membership of the EEC. He gives as an example the Farm and Horticulture Development Scheme, introduced by the European Commission with the object of raising agricultural wages to the general level of those in manufacturing industry.

"The thinking behind it was

Coldest wind blows across fens

UNEMPLOYMENT

East Anglia had long been neglected, Mr Kenneth Weech, Opposition spokesman, said in opening a Commons debate on the effects of Government policies on the region.

He moved a motion condemning the Government for pursuing policies that had had a disastrous effect on East Anglia's economic and social fabric, bringing about increased unemployment, weakened industry, deteriorating transport services and rural decline, noting that as a result of Government and EEC support farmers had hit the region but this had not been shared by agricultural workers, and calling upon the Government to abandon policies that did such damage to the region's prosperity.

The people of East Anglia were industrious, responsible and not given to demonstrations of belligerence or shows of indignation in public places. Industrial relations were among the best in Britain.

It is, all told, an area (he said) of industry and responsibility. Unfortunately they are beginning to learn the oldest lesson of all - that the meek do not inherit the earth. They inherit the rough end of the stick.

Mr Weech (Ipswich, Lab) said that at times one of the coldest winds in Britain was that that blew across the fens. East Anglia (he went on) has been left to fight the teeth of the economic wind almost entirely on its own, and the injustice of that needs to be remedied.

The people of East Anglia were industrious, responsible and not given to demonstrations of belligerence or shows of indignation in public places. Industrial relations were among the best in Britain.

It is, all told, an area (he said) of industry and responsibility. Unfortunately they are beginning to learn the oldest lesson of all - that the meek do not inherit the earth. They inherit the rough end of the stick.

Mr John MacGregor, Under Secretary of State for Industry (South Norfolk, C) moved a Government amendment to make the motion read: "That this House recognises that the prosperity of East Anglia depends on continued success in the Government's policies to keep down inflation and restore competitiveness to the economy."

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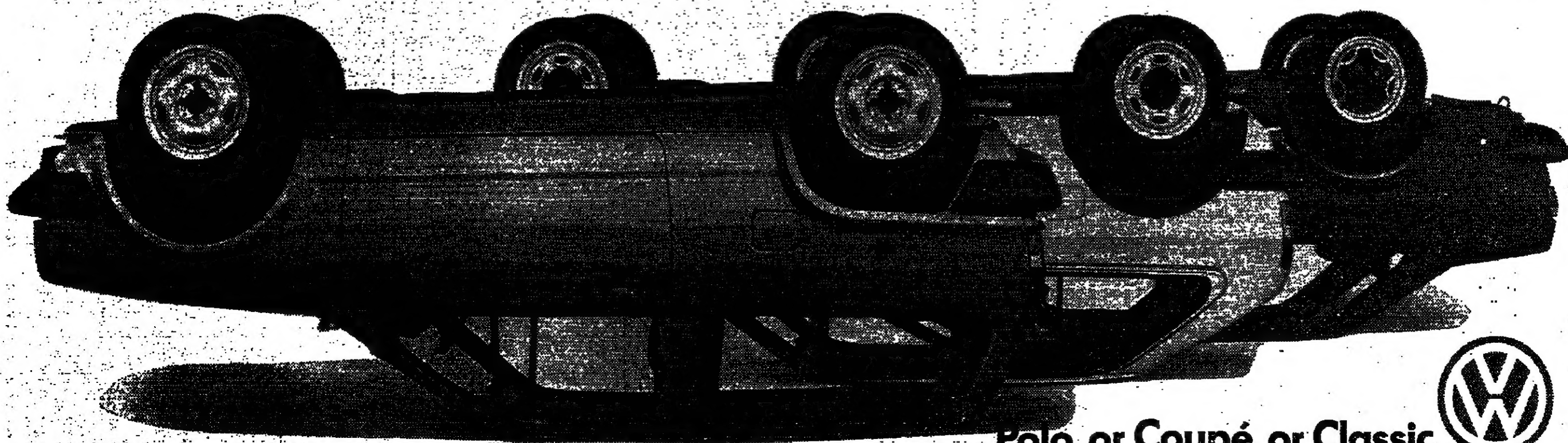
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Polo, or Coupé, or Classic.

Kohl cools tension over death of tourist on East German border

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Government was at pains yesterday not to exacerbate the sharp deterioration in relations with East Germany which has resulted from the death of a West German traveller to Berlin during questioning by East German border guards.

Dr Kohl's firm stand in demanding an explanation from Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, has been widely praised, but a government spokesman denied that the incident - the most serious since Dr Kohl came to office - had led to preparations for Herr Honecker's visit here being put on ice.

The Chancellor telephoned Herr Honecker on Monday and told him that an autopsy showed that a heart attack did not appear to be the only reason for the death of Herr Rudolf Burkert, who died during a two-hour interrogation on the crossing point with West Berlin on April 10.

The East German leader immediately promised a full investigation - a reaction that surprised observers here and is being taken as a sign that East Germany is embarrassed and anxious not to let the incident

be exploited by opponents of closer relations between the two countries.

One such opponent, Herr Franz Josef Strauss, Prime Minister of Bavaria, called it a "case of murder" and said evidence pointed to serious mistreatment of Herr Burkert by the border guards. "These are the interrogation methods of Barbie," he said. Other members of his Christian Social Union have questioned the proposed Honecker visit. Most papers, however, have sharply criticized Herr Strauss's stand, suggesting that Dr Kohl's more measured reaction politically was wise.

East German television gave a long account of the incident on Monday, saying Herr Burkert, a 45-year-old publican, stopped illegally at a motorway area on the way to Berlin and gave 3,000 marks to an East German citizen there. During questioning later he suffered an acute heart attack, slipped from a chair and hit his head.

The East German official news agency said yesterday Herr Honecker had told Dr Kohl it was a regrettable incident, but no blame attached to the border guards. All efforts would be

made to clear up the affair, which should not be allowed to upset bilateral relations.

Herr Otto Brüutigam, head of the West German mission in East Berlin, has asked for clarification of what is seen as the most serious such incident since the transit agreement was signed 12 years ago.

Meanwhile it has been revealed that an East German journalist accompanying Herr Günter Mittag, a senior member of the East German Politburo now on a visit here, has been arrested in Hanover on charges of spying. The order was issued in Berlin in 1980, and officials emphasized that the man's arrest last Friday was not connected with Herr Mittag's visit. He has been flown to West Berlin to appear in court. West German officials described him as a small fish in the espionage business.

Dr Kohl refused to meet Herr Mittag on Monday, but he has had extensive talks with other political leaders. Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the Economic Minister expressed satisfaction after a meeting at the growth of trade between the two German states, which last year showed a rise of 13 per cent over 1981.

Sir Harold in Moscow

Wilson 'Trots' baffle Russians

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Sir Harold Wilson returned to the international stage in Moscow yesterday to calm the troubled state of Anglo-Soviet relations and baffle the Russians with a series of deeply felt attacks on "Trots".

He said the recent deterioration in Anglo-Soviet relations after tit-for-tat expulsions was regrettable, and he hoped they would not affect the broad sweep of relations between the two countries.

Sir Harold was speaking to British and Soviet journalists after a visit to Moscow and Tashkent on behalf of the Great Britain-USSR Society, of which he is president. He said Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, had approved the visit, and had supported it with great enthusiasm.

The society, a non-political body supported by all parliamentary parties, had several times offered to send a senior delegation to the Soviet Union in recent years. It had been prevented from doing so by a series of upsets in East-West relations, including Poland and Afghanistan, Sir Harold said.

There were still "hiccups" and "obvious disagreements" between Britain and the Soviet Union. It was all the more important, however, to main-

tain cultural and other links at a time of East-West tensions. Referring to the recent spate of expulsions and retaliations, Sir Harold said, "It is regrettable that these things happen from time to time, but each side knows what the other is up to."

Sir Harold, who has been visiting Russia since 1947 and has known a series of Soviet leaders personally, was accompanied by Sir Fitzroy Maclean, who founded the GB-USSR Society in 1959, and Mr John Roberts, the society's director. They had talks with Mr Mikhail Solomontsev, prime minister of the Russian Federation and a candidate member of the Politburo.

Sir Harold Wilson said the British Labour Party was in serious difficulties, and that "many of our local parties" had been infiltrated by Trotskyists. Addressing Russian journalists - who included Mr Igor Titov, the *New Times* correspondent expelled from London three weeks ago - Sir Harold Wilson remarked: "You of course know all about Trotskyists from your history, but I don't suppose there are many around now. We can do without them, and as far as I'm concerned you can have them back." He said he thought Trotsky must be "revolving in

his grave", at the misuse being made of his name.

He was speaking at the exclusive, well-guarded Soviet Government guest house just off the broad sweep of Aleksei Kosygin Avenue, on the Lenin Hills, in which he has often stayed on previous visits.

In an interview with *The Times*, Sir Harold said that he had decided not to stand at the next general election, and that a new candidate had already been selected to fight his Yorkshire constituency for Labour. It is understood that disillusion over the rise of what he persistently refers to as "Trots" in local constituency parties - including his own - is behind his decision not to enter the Commons again.

Asked if he hoped to enter the House of Lords, Sir Harold said he had no intention of leaving politics altogether, "although I would rather be in the Commons". He remarked that he had been responsible for changing the rules so that an ex-Prime Minister could accept a life peerage.

Sir Harold forecast a September or October election, on the grounds that after the summer holiday voters would be in a better mood.

Diary page 14

Cleric tells of beatings and torture

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Methodist minister who jumped bail in South Africa, and fled to Britain, said yesterday that he had thereby saved several friends of his from prison.

The Rev Cedric Mayson, who is 55 and British-born, was explaining in London his change of mind about standing trial on charges under the Treason Act, on which he was expected to be acquitted.

Several people, including Dr Beyers Naude, former director of the banned Christian Institute, had been interviewed recently by the police seeking further evidence against him.

They refused to cooperate, but on past experience it was likely the prosecution would sub poena them and they would be liable to be jailed for contempt for refusing to answer questions.

Since he was first arrested in November, 1981, the situation in South Africa had deteriorated, with the security forces now operating beyond the control of the courts, he said. While he happened to be speaking to his wife Penelope on the telephone after reaching Britain, his house was attacked by a white gang who damaged his car and caravan and shouted abuse. He hoped his family could leave South Africa to join him as soon as possible.

He said he admitted many



Meeting the press: Mr Mayson (left) and Canon Paul Oestreicher, international secretary of the British Council of Churches. Photograph: Harry Kerr.

of the facts alleged in the charges against him, but not the crucial allegation that he was thereby seeking to further the aims of the African National Congress, a treasonable offence. He had helped people leave the country illegally, and he had literature in his possession he should not have had.

After his arrest he had made a confession, which the trial judge later ruled was inadmissible evidence.

"I was stripped naked and I

was handcuffed with my hands behind my back," he said. "It was a very difficult experience. Then I was kept awake for several days and nights, with no sleep."

A notorious interrogator, known as "Spyker" had pushed him to the floor, pumped on him and pulled his head backwards and forwards. "It was very intimidating, and also rather painful."

Had he stayed in South Africa, even after an acquittal, he expected to be hanged, put

under house arrest and possibly in due course, killed. He escaped by crossing the shallow Caledon River, the border with Lesotho, after a friend had driven him there. Other friends arranged transport for him to Maseru, and then to London.

Mr Mayson said he had not been involved in any way with violent activity against the Government, and had originally wanted to stand trial "to defend the Christian witness of peace, harmony and justice".

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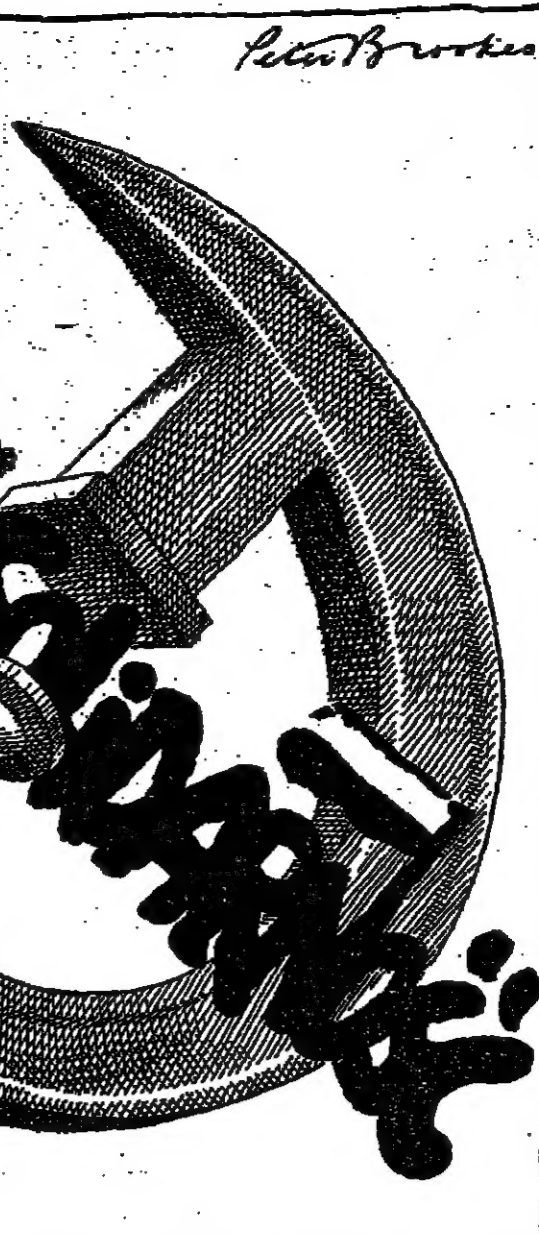
of the Hospital, go on outings, and have had two holidays in Jersey.

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Russians expel Briton

From Our Own Correspondent
Moscow

Mr Edward Chick, a 27-year-old Briton, was expelled from the Soviet Union on Monday for "spreading hostile materials" on the instructions of an anti-Soviet émigré organization, Tass reported yesterday.

Tass said that Mr Chick, who had come to the Soviet Union as a tourist, was caught "red handed" in Leningrad on Friday "trying to hand over smuggled seditious materials and instructions". He was put on a London-bound aircraft at Pulkovo airport, near Leningrad.

A British Embassy spokesman said the embassy had been informed of the case by the Soviet authorities but could not comment on Mr Chick's detention and expulsion. The Soviet action did not seem to be linked to "tit-for-tat" moves by Britain and Russia.

An unusual aspect of the case was that Mr Chick appeared on television in Leningrad to express his "profound regret" at having "unwittingly helped the forces opposed to peace".

No sign of Israelis softening terms for troop withdrawal

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

In a gesture of defiance against the extremists who devastated the American Embassy in Beirut, the thirty-first round of the tripartite talks aimed at securing the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon opened precisely on schedule yesterday in the Israeli resort of Netanya.

Before the serious negotiating began, the delegates from Israel, Lebanon and America expressed their condolences over Monday's massive bomb explosion. The leader of the American team, Mr Morris Draper, one of President Reagan's special Middle East envoys, emphasized that the attack had only made all sides "all the more determined" to press ahead with the talks.

Mr Draper, whose wife was slightly wounded in the Beirut blast, told reporters that the parties were determined to move ahead "as rapidly as possible" with the talks which have made painfully slow progress since they opened last December.

Mr David Kimche, the leader of the Israeli delegation, said: "I think we are all determined to carry on as before, but it does prove that there is still a danger of terrorism in Lebanon - that is what we have been saying all along."

The main sticking point remains differences between Israel and Lebanon over the future role of Major Saad

Haddad, the south Lebanese militia commander whom the Israelis insist be given a prominent military position in the south after his troops leave. The Lebanese have so far firmly resisted such a demand.

There was also little sign last night that Israel is prepared to soften its position over the proposed security arrangements for the buffer zone which will extend about 30 miles north of its border.

Briefing the weekly meeting of the Cabinet, both Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister, told their colleagues that the attack justified Israel's security demands.

Mr Arens reported on his meeting last week with Major Haddad and said that Israel was now considering ways of further strengthening the south Lebanese militia which it already supports with cash, training and weapons. A request by the major for increased arms supplies is under consideration.

Mr Shamir told Israel's army radio network: "We all regret the loss of human lives. This is very regrettable, even shocking, but in Lebanon nothing is surprising. I think the lesson is simple and understood. The security problems in Lebanon are still most serious, and terrorist organizations continue to operate there, at times with great success."

Walesa held for third time in week

Mr Lech Walesa, the former Solidarity leader, was interrogated by Polish authorities yesterday for the third time in a week, this time about the alleged disappearance of several million zloties from the union account in Wroclaw, a former bastion of support for the underground, Roger Boyes writes.

The pressure has been mounting on Mr Walesa who is now the subject of three separate investigations: about his meeting with underground leaders, about his managing of the Solidarity finances and his personal finances.

The interrogation yesterday - completed in two and a half hours - appeared to be aimed at finding out what happened to more than 10m zloties (£75,400) deposited in Solidarity's account in Wroclaw. The money was withdrawn days before the declaration of martial law.

Papusoiu ordered to leave Austria

Mr Stancu Papusoiu, the young Romanian whose deportation from Britain last month led to widespread protests, has now been ordered out of Austria (Our Vienna Correspondent writes).

An official of the Austrian Interior Ministry said yesterday that Mr Papusoiu was free to go wherever he wanted, but he would be expected to be out of the country within a week.

However, the official said that Mr Papusoiu was no longer being accused of having committed offences during a previous stay in Austria in 1980 and that he had therefore been released from the Vienna prison where he had been held overnight.

Mr Papusoiu was transferred to the prison from the refugee camp just south of Vienna on Monday afternoon after he withdrew his request for political asylum in Austria. Why he did this is not exactly clear, but the Interior Ministry official said it was because he realized he did not qualify for political asylum under the terms of the Geneva Convention.

The whole affair is now shrouded in an impenetrable Balkan fog of confusion and mystery. It is not clear why Mr Papusoiu was allowed to leave Romania earlier this month or where he thought he was going to when he was taken off the train by the Austrians.

Rome clears its mayor

Rome (Reuters) - Rome's communist mayor and two party colleagues were cleared of wrongdoing by a Rome magistrate investigating the alleged embezzlement of public funds.

Lawyers for the three men said they were satisfied with the verdicts but demanded more open democratic conduct by the Rome Prosecutor's office which brought the charges.

The mayor, Signor Ugo Vetere, was cleared of improperly drawing a 2m lire (about £1,000) advance, later repaid, for a security escort to last month's Communist Party congress in Milan. All three were cleared of claiming false travel expenses from the Rome municipality.

Police break up Korean protest

Seoul - Helmeted police using tear gas and batons broke up a demonstration by about 800 students protesting against the alleged lack of democracy in South Korea on the anniversary of the 1960 student uprising that toppled President Syngman Rhee, Jacqueline Rediff writes.

As the chanting students, some calling President Chun Doo Hwan a fascist, linked arms on the campus of Yonsei University, plainclothesmen plunged into the crowd, punching and kicking, to drag off the ringleaders.

Uganda official found murdered

Kampala (Reuters) - The bullet-riddled body of Mr Rajab Lutaya, an official of Uganda's opposition Democratic Party, was found by a roadside three days after he was taken from his home by men in police uniforms, the newspaper *Munro* said.

Relatives said that Mr Lutaya was seized by men wearing the uniform of the police special forces. His death brings to 16 the toll in such incidents since Friday.

Aga Khan's gift

Dar es Salaam (AFP) - The Aga Khan, whose Islamic community here has 15 million followers, has pledged to give Tanzania \$60m (about £40m) to help rehabilitate tourist hotels and factories run by his Industrial Promotion Service.

Crowd fired on

Delhi (Reuters) - Police opened fire to break up a pro-throwing crowd yesterday in the Marxist-ruled state of Tripura in eastern India. Five people were wounded during the incident in the state capital of Agartala.

Bombs kill 3

Valencia (AFP) - A police lieutenant was killed here when a bomb placed under his car exploded. In a separate incident, two people were killed when a bomb went off, apparently inside their car.

Correction

The Nationalist Party boycott of the Maltese Parliament, mentioned in a report on April 11, ended on March 25.

Attenborough tour off

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Sir Richard Attenborough, director of the award winning film *Gandhi*, will not now be making a promotional tour of South Africa where his film goes out on general release to racially segregated audiences at the end of this week.

Mr William Sharp, the manager of press relations for Ster-Kinekor, the cinema chain

which is showing the film here, said Sir Richard's decision to cancel the visit had been communicated to his company on Monday night.

Ster-Kinekor said that it respected Sir Richard's decision because of the "extreme international pressures from various sources" to which he had been subjected.



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Nkomo ponders future in lonely exile as Zimbabwe celebrates

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Officials of the Zimbabwe High Commission and their guests celebrated the third anniversary of independence at a reception in London this week, without the man who had most right to be there.

Mr Joshua Nkomo, aged 65, sat instead in his rented flat, two miles away from Hyde Park, supposedly planning his return to the country he fled five weeks ago.

Assurances on his safety and on the restoration of the principles of reconciliation and the rule of law on which Zimbabwe was founded, were his original conditions for going home.

Now he says he no longer cares about the former and would seem to have grave doubts about the latter. But speculation is nonetheless growing over the imminent return of Mr Nkomo to the land he fought for.

He refused to give interviews last week before Zimbabwe's independence day, pointing out that these at such a time were the prerogative of Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister and his old political enemy.

But he was quoted by Newsweek as accusing Mr Mugabe of pursuing a policy of "terrorism and destruction" to suppress opposition to one-party rule.

He said: "A referendum has got to be conducted in an

atmosphere that would result in a free and fair decision by the people. The terrorism and destruction that has gone on in Zimbabwe has not created that atmosphere."

There had been an attempt in Zimbabwe to use the problem created by dissidents for other purposes. Such as the implementation of one-party politics.

"The Government knows it cannot be done by persuasion so it has to be done by force. In order to deploy the Army certain acts must happen in certain areas and those acts must be attributed to dissidents."

"Everyone seems to forget that these so-called dissidents have concentrated their actions against us, against the Zimbabwe African People's Union (Zapu), he said.

One of his objectives while in Britain has been to find other ways of bringing pressure to bear on the Harare Government, since Mr Mugabe's rejection of the protest by Zimbabwe's Roman Catholic bishops.

People living there need to be given hope, according to Zapu sources. They need to be assured that their cause is being heard. By giving them such hope the prospect of civil war in the country can be ended.

Mr Nkomo is said to feel cheated by the Harare Government's one-party policy,

especially after he had done everything possible to persuade his own Zapu supporters, often against their better judgment, to cooperate with their old Zapu opponents.

Mr Tiny Rowland, the Lomro chief who backed Mr Nkomo as an old friend on the latter's arrival in this country, is now said to have withdrawn his support. Mr Nkomo must feel that the day is now approaching when he has to decide whether to return or resign himself to lonely exile.

Then it will be Mr Mugabe and his followers who will have to decide whether to proceed against the grand old man of Central African nationalism or whether to move to bridge the political gap between them. Neither man can pretend for much longer that the problem will simply go away.

● **HARARE** Zimbabwe's main opposition party has again spoken out under the threat of banning for allegedly supporting guerrillas operating in the Western province of Matabeleland, Stephen Taylor writes.

Mr Mugabe said that officials of the Patriotic Front party had been directly aiding armed dissidents.

He said, "If the trend towards subversion continues, I can assure my Government will not hesitate to proscribe the party."



Top advice. Mr Igor Andropov, son of the Soviet Party leader, chats to his delegation chief Mr Anatoly Kovalyov, before the Madrid conference starts.

Security delegates deny reports of split

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

Chief delegates of West Germany and the United States attempted here yesterday to dispel reports of a split in the Western position as the conference on security and co-operation in Europe reconvened after a brief spring recess.

Speaking on behalf of the 10 members of the EEC, Herr Jorg Kasl, the West German ambassador, said that the latest proposal for a final document, submitted last month by neutral

and non-aligned nations, constituted a valuable effort, although members did not think the proposal in its actual form was completely satisfactory and further improvements were still needed in certain areas.

He assured fellow delegates at this 35-nation Helsinki Review conference that the Ten would be flexible and ready to use all available procedures appropriate to bring about satisfactory results.

Mr Max Kampelman, the US Ambassador, who according to unofficial reports was holding out for a tougher position on the proposed final document than were West Germany and other member countries of the Nato insisted at a meeting with journalists after the closed-door plenary session that he found very little difference among Western nations regarding the proposed document known as RM-39.

Commons outraged

Canadian budget leaked on TV

From John Best, Ottawa

Opposition spokesmen in the Canadian House of Commons yesterday demanded the resignation of Mr Marc Lalonde, the Liberal Finance Minister, after an unprecedented budget leak.

The Budget, Mr Lalonde's first since he was appointed last September, was due to be presented in the Commons last night.

At a pre-budget "photo-opportunity" session in the minister's office on Monday, a television cameraman filmed several pages of the French text of Mr Lalonde's speech.

They turned out to be key parts of the budget presentation, and showed the Government projecting a \$Can 31,200m (£16,200m) deficit for the fiscal year 1983-84, compared with a deficit of between \$Can 23,000m and \$Can 27,000m for the year just ended.

The film clips also showed government plans to spend \$Can 4,600m for job creation for the coming year.

The photo-opportunity session is traditionally held to allow informal pictures of the finance minister in advance of his budget speech.

Mr Lalonde, in this case, made the occasion more realistic by actually skimming through parts of the budget as the cameras whirled, apparently not realizing that at least one camera was picking up the fine print.

Mr Erik Nielson, the Con-

servative Opposition leader in the Commons, quickly demanded Mr Lalonde's resignation. He said the leak was so enormous that the finance minister had no recourse but to resign.

"There has never been a breach of such magnitude in Canadian history", Mr Nielson said.

Mr Nelson Riis, finance critic of the New Democratic Party, also demanded the minister's resignation, saying that the credibility of the whole Budget had been put in question.

In the British tradition, budgets here are supposed to be kept entirely secret until their unveiling, as speculators could move to take advantage of advance knowledge of their contents.

Mr Lalonde's office was still refusing yesterday morning to comment on the demands that he resign, but a spokesman for Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister, said he did not expect Mr Lalonde to step down.

The leak was not without irony, in that Mr Lalonde had taken extraordinary precautions this year to ensure that he would not be scooped by the media on his own budget.

Normally, reporters are allowed to leave the locked room where they prepare stories on the budget in advance of its presentation, at 8pm, when the minister starts speaking. This year, they were being kept in until Mr Lalonde finishes.

Prem's job seems safe for 4 years

Bangkok (Reuters) - General Prem Tinsulanonda seems assured of a further term as prime minister because none of the political parties achieved a clear majority in the general election yesterday.

Even the Kukrit Pramej, the leader of the Social Action Party which won the biggest number of seats, has said that General Prem should stay.

General Prem succeeded his one-time mentor, General Kriangsak Chomanan early in 1980, and has since survived an abortive coup and crisis mounted by infighting in the outgoing coalition Government.

A former army chief, General Prem owes his unique position to personal integrity and to Thailand's complex politics in which civilians and the military share equal administrative and legislative powers. He has carefully guarded his reputation and stands aloof from government and business affairs which could compromise it.

While he regularly attends ceremonies and public functions sponsored by the Thai royal family to show his loyalty, he avoids private parties and other social activities.

He was born on August 26, 1920, in the provincial capital of Songkhla in southern Thailand into a middle-class family and commissioned into the Army as a sub-lieutenant in 1941. He had his first taste of combat in a brief border war with the French forces in Indo-China shortly afterwards. Unlike most politically ambitious generals, he spent all 36 years of his career in the field.

As Prime Minister he has displayed little personal knowledge of economic and administrative problems preferring to leave the day-to-day running of the administration to bureaucrats.

Leading the ruling coalition as a compromise choice, General Prem has often deliberately distanced himself from disputes and conflicts involving his two main coalition partners - the Social Action and the Thai National parties.

Thousands still held in Vietnam

By Richard Dowden

Vietnam is still holding several thousand people in "reeducation camps" because of the positions they held in the previous South Vietnamese Government, according to Amnesty International.

The human rights organization said that some of those detained are former policemen, soldiers or administrators who were arrested after the communist takeover in 1975 and others had been arrested since then for their religious or political beliefs or for trying to emigrate illegally. Amnesty urged yesterday that they be released or be brought to trial quickly.

There is no overall figure for the number of those detained, last year Mr Nguyen Co Thach, the Vietnamese Foreign Minister, was quoted as saying that some 16,000 people were being held in reeducation camps.

Nor are there details of conditions in the camps, but Amnesty said it was concerned at reports that large numbers of prisoners suffer from malaria, tuberculosis and diseases related to malnutrition. It was also concerned at reports that prisoners in some camps relied partly or wholly on food and medicine provided by their families.

● Emigrants are leaving Vietnam at the rate of more than 1,000 a month under the orderly departure programme according to Mr Paul Harding, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The programme began in 1979 and Mr Harding said that the number of boat people reported to be leaving Vietnam since then had dropped.

● Peking's China accused Vietnam yesterday of being solely responsible for artillery exchanges along their common border and threatened further retaliation if Hanoi did not stop its "provocations", Reuters reports.

The warning, by Qi Huafu, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, was China's strongest since last weekend when the two countries began exchanging artillery fire and accused each other of starting the violence.

Wettest winter for 50 years devastates Cuba

By Our Foreign Staff

Three months of torrential rain and hurricane force winds have devastated homes, crops and communications in Cuba creating what the national news agency calls an "extremely grave situation".

It has been the wettest winter for 50 years according to the Cubans, who say that the effects of the unseasonal storms which have swept the country since January are worse than the devastation caused by hurricane Flora in 1963 which killed more than 1,000 people and left 100,000 homeless.

In the sugar industry, the country's main export earner, the situation is described as "truly critical" with a loss of more than 25 million tonnes. Unofficial sources put the loss at two million tonnes, nearly a quarter of the total crop.

Cuba also faces a very serious foreign debt crisis. Creditor banks meeting in Paris yesterday failed to reach agreement with the Central Bank of Cuba on rescheduling some \$200m (about £133m) of short-term debt. Cuba, whose foreign debt amounts to about \$3,200m, is trying to postpone repayment of about \$1,200m. It is likely that Cuba will have to ask the Soviet

Union for emergency assistance.

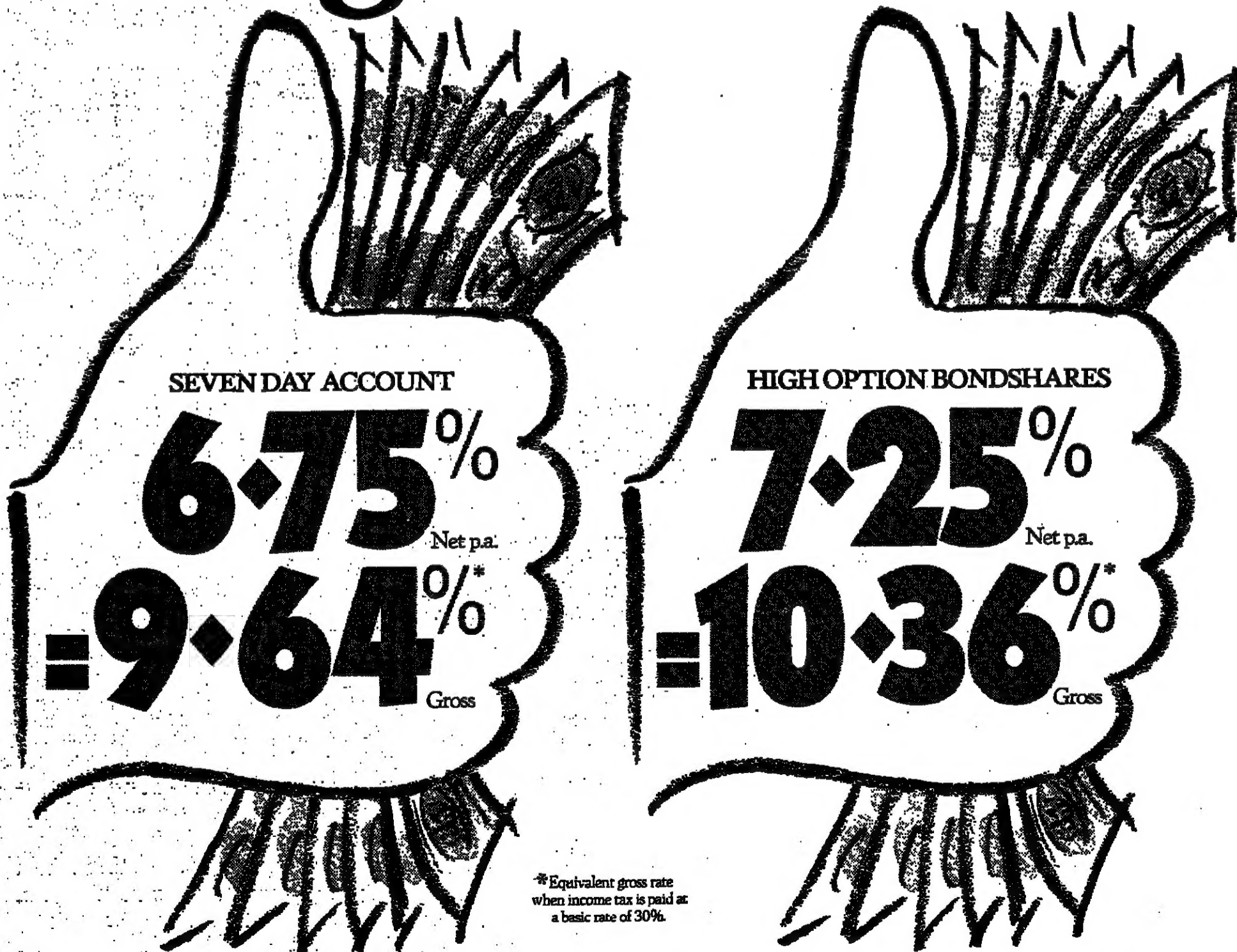
The Cuban news agency said last week that there had been 80 days of torrential rain, more than five times heavier than usual in some places for the time of year and winds of over 125 mph.

Although there have been few deaths and injuries, thousands of people have had to be evacuated from their homes, and there has been severe flooding destroying roads, bridges, factories and power lines.

On March 16 a tornado hit Mariel near Havana and "crushed huge high voltage towers as if they were paper", the news agency said. It said the estimates for damage were still provisional, but the entire export crop of tobacco, three quarters of the tomato crop and a quarter of the potato crop had been destroyed.

The news agency emphasized that the economic and social programme must be adhered to and exhorted the people to make an exceptional effort. The Government has set up a national working group headed by the vice-president of the National Council to coordinate relief work.

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Chernenko fails to attend Politburo meeting

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The failure of Mr Konstantin Chernenko to appear in a Politburo line-up at a key meeting of the leadership has reinforced reports circulating in Moscow that factional struggles are continuing with in the Kremlin.

Mr Chernenko, who was President Brezhnev's protégé but lost the leadership battle to Mr Yuri Andropov last November, was not among senior Politburo members who attended a Central Committee meeting on agriculture on Monday addressed by Mr Andropov. A report of the meeting on the front page of *Pravda* yesterday listed all 11 other Politburo members.

Mr Chernenko is not known to have been in bad health, and always appears relatively fit, so that illness is being discounted as an explanation. Earlier this month "ill health" was given as the reason for Mr Chernenko's unexpected absence from a conference in east Berlin.

Mr Chernenko initially dropped from view after the party leadership contest nearly six months ago, but has recently reemerged into the limelight. He chaired a Soviet block meeting on ideology in Moscow in mid-March, and appeared on the platform next to Mr Andropov and Mr Nikolity Tikhonov, the Prime Minister at a Kremlin meeting at the end

of March commemorating Karl Marx.

As head of the party's general department, Mr Chernenko has been a channel for the grievances of "Brezhnevites" and other victims of Mr Andropov's drive for greater efficiency and discipline.

In his address to regional party leaders at the Central Committee, Mr Andropov called for new management techniques in agriculture. He praised the efficiency of Russia's small-scale private farming, and urged "agro-industrial" complexes to "support and stimulate useful initiatives". Mr Andropov said that in a number of areas full use was not being made of "local resources for improving foodstuff supplies, and here I am speaking particularly about personal household plots".

Private peasant plots account for under 1 per cent of agricultural land in Russia, yet produce nearly a third of the total agricultural output, including fruit, vegetables and meat.

Acknowledgement of private enterprise is ideologically sensitive in the Soviet Union, however, and Mr Andropov appeared to be developing the mildly reformist food programme launched by Mr Brezhnev last May rather than calling for anything more radical.



Grimacing in the rain: The royal couple still smiling despite their broken-down Rolls-Royce

Royal couple revive their reputation as rainmakers

From Grantia Forbes of the Press Association, Auckland

The Prince and Princess of Wales received a soaking in New Zealand yesterday in weather fit only for ducks.

It was hot and fine last time Prince Charles was here two years ago, but this visit by the royal couple has been dogged by cold, wet conditions. Despite forecasts of better weather, it rained as the Prince and Princess opened Milford School, near Auckland.

The Princess, again wearing her pale yellow woollen dress and matching hat against the

weather, reached for a big black umbrella as soon as she stepped from the royal Rolls-Royce and as the couple started a walkabout through the grounds of the new heating school, which teaches children to be "water wise", they quickly sent for mackintoshes.

Opening the centre, Prince Charles could not resist a reference to the couple's reputation, built up during the tour of Australia and New Zealand, as rain-makers.

He said: "I am not exactly positive whether we brought the rain from Australia or whether it is some of the rain that soaked the Queen in California which has taken six weeks to cross the Pacific."

The weather even had the last word as they were leaving to attend a fire service display when the waiting Rolls-Royce, lent by the Governor General, failed to start because of ignition problems caused by the rain. As the driver, Mr

Fred Page, aged 60, struggled beneath the bonnet, the Prince and Princess delighted the crowds by going for another short walkabout. Finally, a black Daimler had to be used instead.

Prince Charles suffered from food poisoning in Australia and his temperature soared to 104 degrees, according to Mr John Maxwell, a factory foreman, who said the Prince told him of the brief illness when they met yesterday.

Right forces head of Salvadoran defence to resign

San Salvador (NYT) — General José Guillermo García, El Salvador's Minister of Defence, under attack from both American and Salvadoran authorities for his management of the war against a leftwing insurgency, resigned on Monday.

General García had been criticized by the extreme right for his support of the land redistribution programme and the provisional Government that came to power after the election last year.

General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova, the director of the National Guard, was nominated by the provisional President Alvaro Magaña as Defence Minister.

Considered a political moderate, General Vides Casanova was named guard commander in 1979 in an effort to end the organization's excesses. His appointment as Defence Minister is subject to confirmation by the 60-member Constituent Assembly.

General García was appointed to the military junta formed after the overthrow of General Carlos Humberto Romero in 1979 and is the last member of the group to remain in the Government. He was considered the conservative representative on the junta, but as other, more left-leaning, military members were forced out he rose in prominence and played a role in stabilizing the country's civilian Government.

Last year, he emerged as the crucial government supporter of the land redistribution programme, a project backed by the United States. His support brought criticism from the far right and there were rumours of a possible coup last autumn. Early this year, as the leftwing guerrillas began to have a series of successes in the countryside, General García became the focus for American as well as Salvadoran frustrations with the course of the war.

The frustrations became public when a little known commander of a north-eastern province refused in January to accept an order transferring him to the Salvadoran Embassy in Uruguay until the Defence Minister resigned.

General García offered his resignation at a meeting attended by other commanders on March 18, but it was not accepted by President Magaña.

According to a political source, President Magaña gave the command of American aid, as one of the reasons for his continued support of the Defence Minister. The Americans, the source said, then made it clear that the United States supported the institution and not necessarily one man.

This month, however, when Colonel Juan Rafael Bustillo, the Air Force Commander, threatened to mutiny if García did not resign by last Friday, President Magaña was forced to act. Minutes before Colonel Bustillo's deadline, he received a telephone call from the Presidential House saying that General García would resign on Monday.

Mexico breakthrough eludes Shultz

From Joan Carlin, Mexico City

Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, ended his first day of talks on Central America with Senor Bernardo Sepúlveda, the Mexican Foreign Minister, with plenty of agreement on objectives for the war-torn region but little of substance on means of reaching them.

A US Administration official said in Mexico City on Monday night that both governments wished to see a lasting and peaceful solution to the escalating conflicts in Central America, and that they would like to work together for healthy economies and pluralistic political systems in the region.

But when pressed on whether Mr Shultz had got any nearer to overcoming the traditional differences between Mexico and the United States on their visions of the Central American dilemma, the American official had to concede that no breakthrough had been made.

The United States conceives of Central America predominantly as a stage for superpower confrontation, while Mexico sees the region's problems in more local terms, as the product of centuries-old social injustices.

Nevertheless, Senor Sepúlveda

da said it was urgent that these differences should somehow be reconciled if a lasting peace was to be achieved in Central America. The meetings, Senor Sepúlveda and Mr Shultz were due to have yesterday would be crucial in the expeditious desired wish on both sides for a certain rapprochement on the view of how this could best be done.

Mr Shultz has been accompanied on his Mexican visit by Mr Donald Regan, the United States Treasury Secretary, who had four hours of talks on Monday with Senor Jesus Silva Herzog, the Mexican Finance Minister, on the prospects for Mexico's battered economy. A United States Treasury spokesman said at the end of the day's talks that they had been favourably impressed with the Mexican Government's analysis of their country's economic predicament.

Mexico, with a foreign debt of \$8,500m (\$5,500m), depends on oil exports for more than 70 per cent of its foreign earnings. Financial analysts fear that if the oil price continues to fall, the international banking community, with United States banks on the front line, might be obliged once again to bail out Mexico.

Austrians prepare to vote

Kreisky's popularity will ensure party victory

From David Blow, Vienna

Austrians go to the polls on April 24 to vote in a general election that has once again been dominated by the personality of Dr Bruno Kreisky, the Chancellor. Although he is now 72 and in poor health, his prestige and widespread popularity after 13 years in office are expected to ensure that his social democratic party remains the largest party in the Nationalrat or lower house of Parliament.

What is less certain is whether the Social Democrats will retain their absolute majority in the new Parliament or whether Austria is in for a period of coalition government. In the present Nationalrat the Social Democrats have 95 seats, the conservative People's Party 77 and the liberal Freedom Party 11. The situation is complicated by the fact that two new green parties are contesting the election for the first time, the rightwing United Greens and the leftwing Alternative List.

The Social Democrats rightly claim that Austria has withstood the economic storms of recent years better than most other western countries, though how much this is due to the Social Democratic government and how much to the enviable Austrian tradition of compromise and cooperation embodied in the social partnership is another question.

A country where strikes are almost unknown and where managers and union leaders sort out their problems over a glass of wine clearly has some built-in advantages. These are reflected in the latest economic forecasts that predict an unemployment level this year of 4.5 per cent and an inflation rate of 3.7 per cent.

But although the unemployment level is still very low by international standards, it has doubled since 1981 and the rate of increase is causing some concern. Dr Alois Mock, the leader of the opposition People's Party, is irritated by the constant favourable comparison with other countries.

The Austrians have been accustomed to have only two to three per cent unemployment over decades, he says. "Should we wait until we are in the same situation as the Germans or even the British?" Dr Mock, former diplomat, aged 46, is fighting his first general election since he became leader of the People's Party in 1979. His main attack is levelled against what he sees as the reckless policy of the Social Democratic Government of borrowing and spending its way out of the economic crisis. He says that this has imposed a heavy burden of debt and taxation, but has done little to create jobs.

He wants to see much more attention given to Austria's small and medium-sized private enterprises, which provide 80 per cent of jobs, and insists we move about three per cent of expenditure into promoting investment, we can recover full employment in four to five years.

The People's Party, whose traditional colour is a sombre clerical black, has acquired a green tinge in recent years. It strongly supports the 1978 referendum decision against the use of nuclear power in Austria, and how much to the enviable Austrian tradition of compromise and cooperation embodied in the social partnership is another question.

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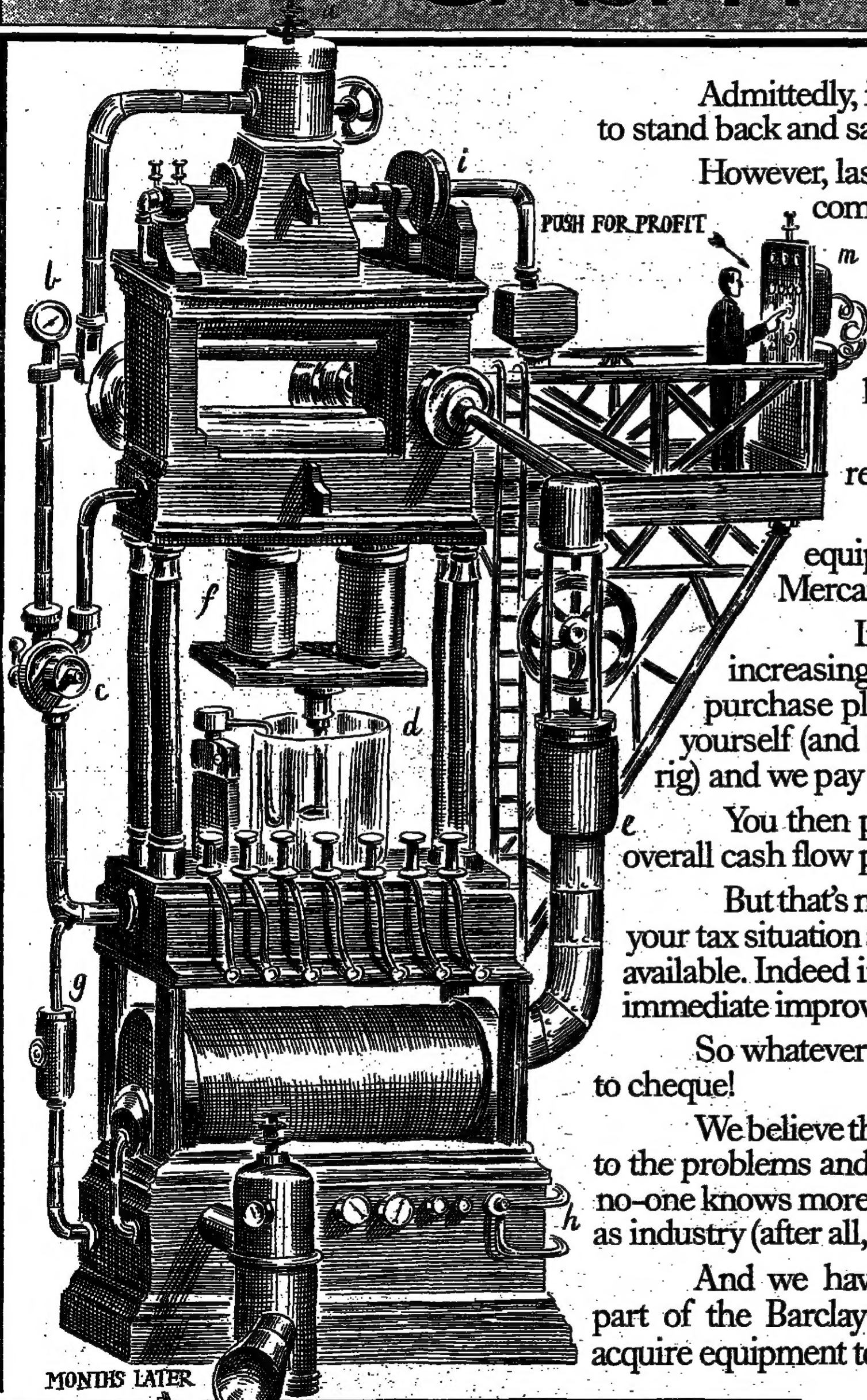
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A SPECIAL REPORT

TEA

We had a kettle, we let it leak,
Our not repairing it made it worse,
We haven't had any tea for a week,
The bottom is out of the universe.

Rudyard Kipling

Under the Trade Description Act packers need only mention in small print that teas are blends from various sources. The Indian Government has formally asked Britain to implement minimum standards for imports, but has had no success to date.

Starling's recent decline has been bad news for the producer countries, since it is historically the currency in which nearly all trade is conducted. But it has certainly helped to boost sales in Britain: Mr Munday is able to claim that a home-made cup of Darjeeling (presumably real Darjeeling) costs less than a cup of instant coffee.

"The greatest growth potential is undoubtedly at the quality end of the market," he says. "Go into supermarkets and you will see shelves full of speciality blends. Tea is becoming trendy again. There is even a shop in Covent Garden which sells nothing else."

Health consciousness also helped sales of tea, and the recession, he admits. "This has not done us any harm. Tea has for so long been part of the wallpaper that its virtues tend to have been forgotten. Now it is reclaiming its proper status. Even tea dances are making a comeback."

John Young

CHINA

The art and its name

China, which taught us the art of tea cultivation and gave the drink its name, may well have reemerged as the world's largest producer. Official figures for 1982 of 370,000 tonnes put it second to India; but there is a substantial unrecorded amount of tea grown in small quantities and used locally. Estimates of actual production range from about 620,000 tonnes to nearly one million tonnes.

It is thought that China has about 2.5 million acres of tea fields, roughly 45 per cent of the world's total. These are mainly in the subtropical south-east and centre of the country, in the provinces of Yunnan, Guangxi, Guangdong, Sichuan, Guizhou, Hunan, Hubei, Jiangxi, Zhejiang, Anhui, Henan, Jiangsu, Fujian and Shaanxi.

Production is expected to increase by between 3 and 5 per cent a year into the 1990s, mainly to meet domestic demand. According to a Chinese tea delegation which visited the United States last year, 90 per cent of China's population of more than 1,000 million drink tea every day. A



Eric Tye, chief blender at Ty-Phoo, with the tools of his trade. About 25 different teas go into the average packet.

man is likely to put down six to 12 (albeit small) cups and a woman three to eight cups.

Most of this is green tea; of which there are thousands of varieties in China. Of the officially recorded production in 1982, it is estimated that 275,000 tonnes, or nearly 75 per cent, was of green tea. The Chinese delegation said that about 60 per cent of the increased output in the coming years would be in green tea and 40 per cent in black.

However, it is the smaller, black tea production which has caught the attention of the outside world. More than 95 per cent of the world tea trade is in black tea and it is with this type that China has the better chance of earning foreign currency. Its exports of both black and green teas have more than doubled since 1970 and now stand at about 50,000 tonnes each. The black goes mainly to Europe and the United States and the green to other Asian countries and North Africa.

China's growing international importance has aroused fears among the biggest black tea exporters, India, Sri Lanka and Kenya, that they will be ousted from their leading positions by

the "dumping" of vast quantities of cheap Chinese tea on the world market.

These fears are probably exaggerated. First, huge domestic demand will take care of most of the increase in Chinese production. Secondly, as a country which is desperately short of hard currency, China would presumably not wish to engineer a collapse in tea prices.

Britain is the largest overseas market for Chinese tea, followed by the United States and Pakistan, and last year our imports from China jumped by nearly 97 per cent to 11,804 tonnes.

Several factors lie behind this increase. The most important concern changes in production and distribution. First, the Chinese have improved quality by greater use of fertiliser and modern machinery (some of it copied from Western models). Secondly, they are catering increasingly for tea bags - which account for 60 per cent of the British market - by manufacturing tea with small and precisely sized leaves. Thirdly, in the last two years they have switched to shipping their tea in standard

continued on next page

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A large mug of gently steaming, whitish brown liquid stands on my desk in front of me as I type this. Cheaper, more ubiquitous and less pernicious than either nicotine or alcohol, tea remains unchallenged as our national drink, or drug.

If we exclude plain tap water, tea accounts for more than half our total liquid consumption. We are by far the largest importers in the world, and only the Irish drink more per head than we do.

That we should have made ourselves so dependent on a totally non-indigenous plant, grown thousands of miles away in tropical Asia and Africa, is extraordinary. But we should, it seems, be grateful, without tea, our addiction might well have taken a more destructive turn. "In the bracing climate of the north," according to an entertaining book published by Thompson, Lloyd and Ewart, the tea brokers, "men will go to almost any lengths to avoid drinking plain water." It points out that in medieval times the monks of Abingdon were entitled to three gallons of beer each, while those at Battle were rationed to a gallon of wine.

If the book's author, P. J. Banyard, is to be believed, the "capricious" behaviour of medieval people may well be explained by their dependence on alcohol. From what we know of 18th century drinking habits, which are more fully chronicled, there is much to be said for his assertion that tea and coffee have provided "an immense service to civilisation."

The supposition nowadays is that we drink them in preference to stronger stimulants because they are cheaper. Were the Chancellor in a moment of aberration to remove all duties on wine, it is said, we would follow the example of the French and the Italians and do terrible damage to our lives.

But history does not support this view. When tea took Britain by storm in the 17th and 18th centuries, it was a very expensive drink; a pound of the cheapest variety would cost a skilled worker about one third of his weekly wage and, until the high duties were repealed in 1784, smuggling was widespread.

Ironically, it is only in recent years, when the cost for most people has been relatively insignificant, that tea drinking in Britain has declined. Between 1967 and 1978 consumption fell by about 30 per cent from over 200,000 tonnes to little more than 160,000 tonnes, although in the last three or four years the trend has been reversed.

The main competition at first was from coffee, with the rapid growth of coffee bars in the late 1950s and early 1960s, belated successors to the 17th century coffee houses which, ironically,

owed their decline to the advent of tea. They proved to be a short lived phenomenon, but the "coffee habit" was retained and strengthened by the ready availability of a wide range of instant brands.

From 1972 onwards, according to Mr Jim Munday, executive director of the Tea Council, consumer preferences, particularly among young people, turned to soft drinks. Since 1978 the council's advertising, primarily on television and in magazines, has been aimed at giving tea a more sophisticated image.

Unlike the clever but short-lived "Join the Tea Set" posters in the 1960s, the campaign appears to have worked. The council's latest annual report says that it has been particularly successful in changing the attitude to tea among young people, especially young housewives. There also appears to be a widespread view, in this health conscious age, that tea is better for you than coffee.

The revival of tea drinking in Britain, together with its growing popularity in the United States, Poland and West Germany, has come not a moment too soon for the industry. During the latter part of last year, according to Mr Alban Davies, the council's chairman, supply and demand were broadly in balance for the first time since 1976.

In that year there was a fall in world production and an outbreak of panic buying, which led to soaring prices and subsequent collapse. This time, he believes, the picture is altogether healthier.

A steady growth in world demand is needed to absorb a similarly steady growth in production; between 1970 and 1981 total exports rose from 651,000 tonnes to 851,000 tonnes. The three giants are still India, China and Sri Lanka (which, interestingly, still calls its product Ceylon tea), but other countries are moving up the table fast, notably Kenya and Malawi.

For Third World countries tea is a convenient cash crop, relatively easy to grow and labour intensive. It was this

realization that led to the collapse of the old voluntary quota system in the mid-1950s. Since then fears that supply would outstrip demand have led to protracted talks on an international quota system under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad). So far the talks have made no headway, and there is little optimism about any agreement in the foreseeable future.

The other great change that has overtaken the trade has been the decline in importance of the auction market. The traditional auction is still held every Monday at Sir John Lyon House, in Upper Thames Street, and there are others in Colombo, Calcutta, Cochin, Bombay, Jakarta and Singapore. Whereas at one time auctions accounted for about half of all British sales, their volume slumped last year alone from 82,000 tonnes to 59,000 tonnes.

High interest rates and producers' increasing reluctance to wait several months for payment have discouraged distributions from carrying large stocks in warehouses. Instead most tea is now bought on contract in the country of origin, and stocks are frequently kept afloat in container ships as being cheaper than storage ashore.

These developments have not been universally welcomed. Mr Jagdish Khattar, director of promotion in the London office of the Tea Board of India, maintains that an increasing proportion of substandard tea is being imported into Britain, and that the overall quality has declined as a result.

Teas are regularly sold under their purported places of origin, such as Ceylon, Assam, or Kenya, when in fact they are blends from various sources, he claims. For example, the lovely aromatic Darjeeling tea can, for climatic reasons, be grown only in the foothills of the Himalayas, and production is limited to about 10,000 tonnes a year. Yet Mr Khattar estimates that between three or four times that amount is packed and retailed as Darjeeling.

CHINA TEA

中國茶

China was the first country in the world to grow tea. It is not this, however, that

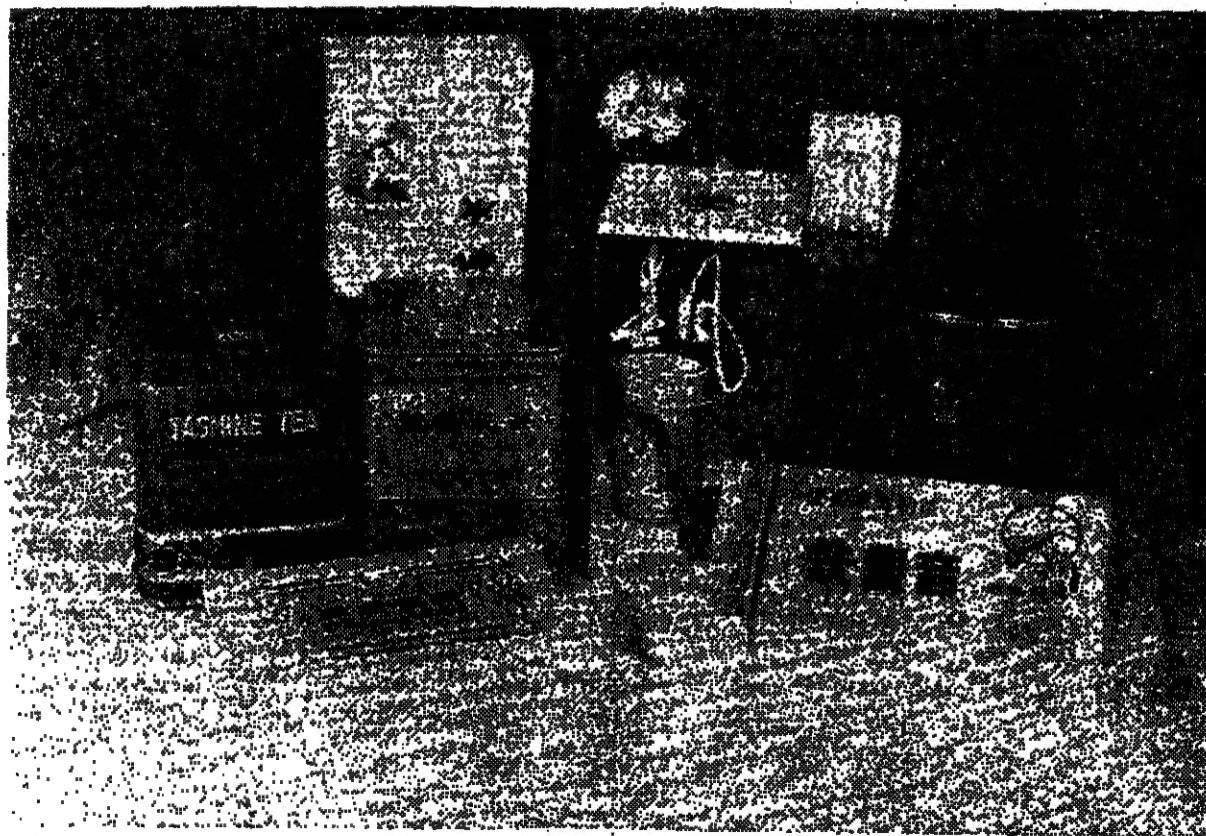
makes China Tea famous, but its fine quality

and numerous varieties. There are six main

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Our corporation can supply tea in small tins or boxes, through to chests of loose tea of varying grades.

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continued from previous page
measurement plywood chests
placed on pallets and packed in
20ft containers.

In addition, China was able to benefit from changes in the international market. In 1981 Britain bought large quantities of cheap Argentine and Mozambique tea for blending. The following year the Falklands war affected supplies of the first, and a dramatic decline in quality, supplies of the second. The Chinese were in a position to fill the gap. According to a leading tea buyer in London, they are likely to hold on to most of the increase in their sales to Britain, despite severe flooding in their tea growing areas this year.

China continues to steer clear of the London auctions, still the most international of the terminal markets, though ceding in volume to Colombo and Calcutta. Some Chinese tea appeared in the auctions in the late 1950s but fetched poor prices. The Chinese have since preferred to sell forward through merchants or direct to the wholesaler, although a negligible amount of tea has been placed in the auction by a third party.

Last August the Chinese sent a delegation to the much smaller, and more local, auction in Singapore but, as with London, have not yet committed their tea to it.

Simon Scott Plummer

INDIA

Fighting to keep its leadership

India's tea industry, based on 8,000 plantations mostly in Assam, Darjeeling and parts of the South Indian hills, is still the largest in the world. But it is having a difficult time and fighting to keep its leadership in an increasingly competitive market.

Its share of the world market is falling and people in the industry see it as going through a period of stagnation. Seven years ago India had a 38.6 per cent slice of world production and 30.1 per cent of the world's exports. Last year these shares had fallen to 30.8 per cent and 23.1 per cent respectively.

In 1980 India produced a record 312 million kg, but in the following year production fell to 261 million kg. It is estimated that it rose slightly to 265 million kg in 1982.

India's performance needs to be seen in relation to world production, which has increased every year since 1970. China's production, for example, went up from 303.75 million kg in 1980 to 342.5 million kg the following year and 370 million kg in 1982.

India regained its position as Britain's largest source of tea in 1982, having lost it to Kenya in 1981. There has been a remarkable rise in Indian tea exports to the Soviet Union, now the biggest customer. Four years ago Britain bought 51 million kg of India tea and the Russians had 40 million kg. Two years later Britain's purchase was

down to 39.5 million kg, while the Russians imported 78 million kg.

India's production difficulties are caused partly by what the industry call its "disorganized sector." The "organized sector" runs the large and successful gardens and is increasing its output, but the "disorganized" part of the industry - small businessmen who have entered it in the hope of quick profits and who do not have the skills and knowledge of the traditional growers - are paying a price in falling production for their lack of expertise.

Many of the gardens in Darjeeling, West Bengal, are run by these relative newcomers. Industry sources say that these men do not have the "feel" for tea which the original British planters developed and which has been inherited by those who work for the large tea houses. About three fifths of the industry, especially in Assam and Southern India, are run by the "organized" sector.

Assam produces about 60 per cent of all India's tea and the industry there is obviously a vital one. The eruption of violence this year, which has claimed thousands of lives, has not affected production because many of the plantation workers are from Bihar and Andhra Pradesh and have not been involved in the inter-caste disputes and the settlers issue.

Nevertheless, there is anxiety that tea garden workers could be drawn into the troubles of a volatile state.

Meanwhile, the violence has caused severe transport problems. Many bridges have been burnt and roads have been blocked.

The overall downturn in production is partly the result of drought which has hit output in South India. Producers also point to increasing labour and fertilizer costs, the fall in selling prices, high taxes and export restrictions.

In spite of their financial difficulties, many tea growers feel that an industry so important to India's economy is bound to improve production provided the Government is sympathetic to calls for subsidies and reduction of taxes.

Research is being intensified in the search for better yields, and machinery is being improved gradually. The industry is also seeking to instruct planters, especially in the "disorganized sector", in management skills.

Trevor Fishlock

New Delhi Correspondent

SRI LANKA

Change in image, if not flavour

Colombo retained its position as the world's largest tea auction centre last year but sales amounted to 179.2 million kilos, compared with 198.7 million kilos in 1981. Production was 187.8 million kilos, the lowest since 1965, when the country produced 228.7 million kilos. Figures for the first two months of this year are the lowest for the period since 1959.

WORLD TEA PRODUCTION

(1982 exports in brackets)

	1980	1981	1982
metric tons			
Asia	571,661	561,920	586,571 (185,900)
India	40,037	41,267	40,383 (84,415)
Bangladesh	131,375	210,148	187,816 (181,000)
Sri Lanka	79,708	86,508	70,000 (60,000)
Indonesia	303,750	342,500	370,000 (85,000)
China	24,479	25,223	25,000 (14,500)
Taiwan	20,000	20,000	20,000 (2,000)
Japan	102,305	102,304	102,000 (2,500)
Malaysia	4,008	5,058	3,208 (650)
Turkey	85,889	41,165	40,000 (4,000)
Vietnam	5,000	6,000	6,000 (7,800)
Total	1,438,207	1,440,111	1,430,980 (587,765)
Africa	1,455	2,228	2,000 (1,700)
Burundi	1,878	2,000	2,000
Cameroon	89,893	90,941	95,033 (80,800)
Kenya	23,815	31,955	38,482 (37,500)
Malawi	4,385	5,072	5,000 (4,500)
Mozambique	19,500	22,180	21,000 (18,500)
Rwanda	7,000	7,000	7,000 (5,500)
South Africa	6,300	6,807	7,000
Tanzania	17,087	15,898	15,230 (14,500)
Uganda	1,533	1,672	2,387 (1,198)
Zaire	5,000	5,000	5,000 (8,000)
Zimbabwe	9,954	10,296	10,500 (8,500)
Total	193,901	201,067	212,582 (173,498)
Soviet Union	128,900	136,500	140,000
South America	34,000	30,000	30,000 (26,500)
Argentina	9,707	10,000	10,000 (7,500)
Brazil	2,000	1,700	2,000 (1,800)
Ecuador	3,000	3,000	3,000 (100)
Peru	3,000	3,000	3,000 (100)
Total	48,707	44,700	45,000 (35,900)
Papua New Guinea	4,007	4,988	4,351 (7,000)
Other Countries			(300)
Grand total	1,818,822	1,829,878	1,834,913 (804,488)

Source: International Tea Committee, London (ITC Estimates have been inserted where figures are not available.)

Sri Lanka's tea industry may never recover from the shocks and stresses of nationalization in 1975, when many experienced planters sought employment elsewhere. Large acreages of tea were broken up and entrusted to cooperatives or were taken out of cultivation for the expansion of villages.

Another setback to the tea industry has been the exodus of skilled workers of Indian origin. In 1964 and 1974 the Indian and Sri Lanka Governments signed agreements on the future of about one million workers of Indian origin on the plantations. Sri Lanka would grant citizenship to 375,000 people and India would take back about 625,000, more than half of whom have already gone.

The present and last Sri Lanka Governments have tried to revive the industry, which remains the country's biggest source of foreign exchange, with incentives ranging from generous subsidies for replanting or new planting to special concessions for export in tea bags instead of bulk. However, efforts to improve output and quality have been largely negated by a deterioration in pruning, plucking, soil conservation and fertilizer application.

The Tea Research Institute has pinpointed inadequate supervision and the shortage of experienced and trained labour as the main causes of poor performance, even in replanted tea acreages. With Sri Lankans taking the place of Indians many estates suffer from absenteeism, and this has also affected the maintenance of proper plucking rounds and the harvesting of leaf.

Despite efforts by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) and meetings between producers and consumers in recent years, no agreement has been reached on proposals to limit production and regulate exports through quotas. Sri Lanka and India are in favour of such action but the new producers in Africa, which are increasing output, are against.

Fortunately for the industry and the national exchequer, there have been boom prices recently. The average price at auctions this year has been between 30 rupees and 35 rupees per kilo. Last year's Colombo auction average was 18 rupees.

Shortages in other producing countries, the unrest in Assam, where both planters and workers have left, the gradual devaluation of the Sri Lankan rupee, and the steep increases in the costs of other beverages are seen as the main causes of the higher prices, but none of these factors is likely to prove enduring. In his Budget speech last month Mr Ronnie de Mel, Minister of Finance, said it was essential to take the fullest advantage of the prevailing high prices by increasing productivity and improving the quality of Sri Lanka's tea.

The prospects for the tea industry in the immediate

future will be closely linked with oil prices. From 1975 Middle East countries filled the void left by traditional buyers and became the industry's best customers. Iran was the biggest buyer of Sri Lanka's tea last year, purchasing 28.3 million kilos, followed by Egypt, with 23.4 million kilos.

Britain, which had been Sri Lanka's best customer, was third, with 19.1 million kilos. British purchases from Sri Lanka have fallen by around 75 per cent since 1962, when they were 80.4 million kilos.

A complete restructuring of the tea industry has been under consideration by the Government. In keeping with its economic policies, the private sector will once again be brought in to manage the state-owned plantations.

Donovan Moldrich

Colombo Correspondent

EAST AFRICA

Quality begins to pay off

Tea is an important item in the economies of Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Mozambique, Rwanda and Zimbabwe, and between them the East African countries are the largest source of supply for the British market. In Uganda, where tea was an important export until ten years ago, the crop is being slowly restored to its former place in the economy.

The increased popularity of East African teas in Britain is a consequence of their high and consistent quality, coupled with an increasing crop volume. Kenya, in particular, has the added advantage of producing a steady volume of tea throughout the year, with very little seasonal variation.

The large tea estates which formerly supplied all Kenya's production are now complemented by a growing volume of tea from small African farmers, each growing no more than an acre of the crop. Backed by sound advice and supervision, and with a chain of modern tea factories to process their crop, 150,000 farmers last year produced 31,000 tonnes of tea from 55,000 hectares of land. This year they will probably produce 38,000 or 39,000 tonnes.

The rest of Kenya's production, totalling 95,600 tonnes last year and probably more than 100,000 tonnes this year, is grown on large estates operated by such well-known firms as Brooke Bond, James Finlay and George Williamson.

After Kenya, Malawi is the second-largest producer, with more than 30,000 tonnes of tea each year. Mozambique produces around 22,000 tonnes and Tanzania about 16,000 tonnes. In the early 1970s Uganda was producing over 20,000 tonnes a

year. Present production is a small fraction of that, but Mitchell Cotts, a British firm, is gradually restoring the extensive tea holdings seized from them in 1972 as part of President Idi Amin's "economic war".

Last year, in fact, was a reasonable one for the East African tea producers, who saw world market prices recovering nicely from the depressed levels from the previous four years. Recent London market prices for quality teas have been well above those of a year ago.

Marketing systems vary. Kenyan tea producers, for instance, must contribute 15 per cent of their output to the local market at prices which are fixed well below world levels. This system is understandably unpopular with the growers.

The rest of Kenya's output goes mainly to the Mombasa and London tea auctions, or in private treaty sales to the European continent. Small quantities are also sold these days on the newly-established Singapore auctions, which serve the South-East Asian and Australian markets. Still more is sold offshore - auctioned while it is afloat.

The tea industry is undergoing important changes: more and more tea is being shipped from Kenya in containers, which can be moved direct from the big estates to big buyers in Britain at substantial savings in transit time and costs.

With containers, tea can be shipped in paper sacks, instead of in the traditional tea chests. This gives big cash savings, as a paper sack costs less than a third of the cost of a tea chest.

Kenya also exports a small quantity of blended tea in packets to other African markets. The advantage of this trade is that it brings in a higher net return. Tea bags are also manufactured in Kenya, mainly for the local market, and a small quantity of soluble ("instant") tea is also produced, for both the local and export markets.

Important developments are taking place in tea cultivation in Africa. Better husbandry and the selection of improved strains of tea are improving yields. Ten years ago Kenyan estates were happy to get 2,000 kilograms of tea per hectare; now they look for 2,500 kilograms. And individual African farmers, who are able to give the closest of attention to their crop, can get up to 4,000 or 5,000 kilograms per hectare. Perhaps the most outstanding development in tea production has been the use of clonal techniques to reproduce tea, rather than the traditional use of seed. Clonal tea can be more carefully selected to reproduce the best strains, and this system of propagation is being used widely today.

Charles Harrison

Nairobi Correspondent

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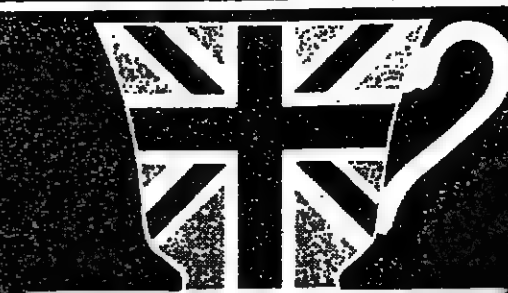
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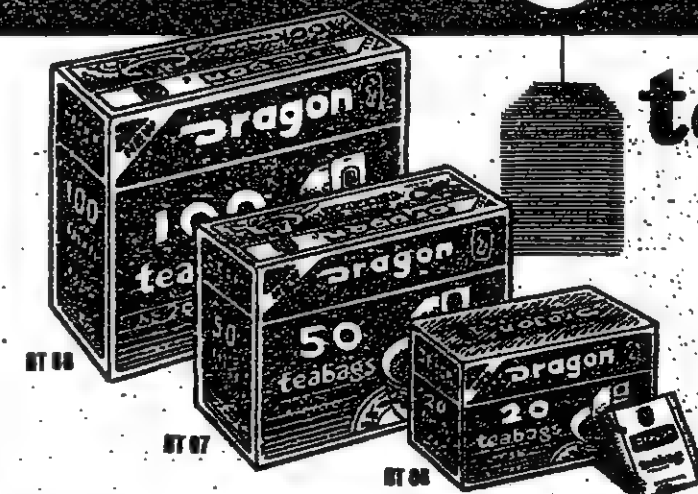
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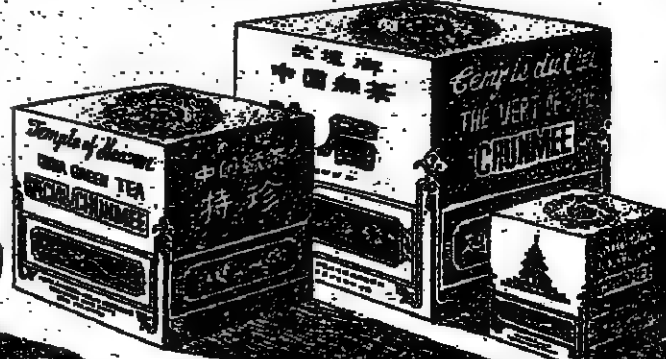
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SPECTRUM

Tourists and brass bands helped Hitler to create detailed plans for an invasion of Ireland, described in the second extract from a new book by Robert Fisk

The Nazis' Irish guidebook

In the summer of 1940, few people outside Ireland could have had a more detailed knowledge of the Irish border than the cartographers of the Wehrmacht's Department for War Maps and Surveys in Berlin. Their *Militär-geographische Angaben über Irland* (*Military Geographical Data on Ireland*) was produced for German invasion troops and contained relief maps and diagrams of the country's military bases, railway system, electrical grids, airfields, factories, gasworks, canals, rivers, mineral deposits, population density and townlands. It was a formidable piece of work, buttressed by an impressive volume of photographs and a 78-page green-covered booklet on Eire and Northern Ireland.

Seventeen pages carried thumb-nail sketches of 233 cities, towns and villages on both sides of the Irish border and one map even outlined in black and grey shading those parts of the island that were Irish-speaking. A mass of tiny illustrations - of aeroplanes, ships, cotton reels, oil lamps and gasometers - were clustered around Belfast, generously symbolizing the Northern Ireland capital's aircraft, shipbuilding and textile industries, its refineries and power plants. "English brutality, which led to a decline in the Irish population, has constantly fed the flames of Irish hatred", the authors of the booklet told their Wehrmacht readers. "Even before the Great War the Ulster people, English in their attitude, directed their attacks against the fanatical struggle for independence of the Catholic Irish in the Home Rule movement, which then led to the separation of Northern Ireland when the Free State was established."

The recipients of this brisk historical analysis were to be the men of the 4th and 7th German Army Corps under General Leonhard Kaupisch, who in August 1940 was ordered to prepare detailed plans for an amphibious operation against Ireland. The idea's originator appears to have been the newly-promoted Field Marshal Feodor von Bock, whose Army Group B, having distinguished itself in the attack on Poland the previous September, had just pushed the British and Belgian armies back to the Channel. Army Group B was now entrusted with the western flank of Operation Sealion - the invasion of Britain - and given the task of securing a beach-head between Weymouth and Lyme Regis. Kaupisch's offensive against Eire was to be an integral part of the attack on England.

The plans for the invasion of Ireland, classified "Top Secret" and "Very Urgent", were distributed in 32 copies by the German High Command on August 8, and at least one set of these instructions - still in its brown envelope bearing the wax seal of the German eagle and swastika - survived the war. It shows that the invasion of Ireland, codenamed Operation Green - *Fall Grün* - was to have been a bold and extremely hazardous affair.

From the French ports of Lorient, St Nazaire and Nantes, an initial force of

3,900 troops was to be landed on an 85-mile front along the south-east coast of Ireland between Wexford and Dungarvan. Having captured the small harbours there - an enterprise which the High Command considered easy "since no substantial resistance is expected in Ireland" - lightly armed infantry and commando units were to fight their way up to 30 miles inland. Operation Green proposed that the front line of this bridgehead would run from Gorey on the Wexford-Dublin road, across the 2,610-foot height of Mount Leinster above Borris in County Carlow, through Thomastown, County Kilkenny, to the small market town of Clonmel in County Tipperary and thence to Dungarvan.

Artillery and commando squadrons and a motorized infantry battalion were to take part in the first landings along the Irish Coast. A bridge-building battalion, three anti-aircraft companies and several "raiding patrols" - to probe Irish military defences - were also to be included in the initial assault, while reserves from the German 61st, 72nd and 290th Divisions were to take up occupation duties in the Gorey-Dungarvan bridgehead once it had been established. A limited number of horses would also be carried aboard the invasion fleet.

But there was a fatalistic if not doomed quality about the invasion plans. The German naval officers who were to transport the troops from France to Ireland could not have been comforted by the instruction that "preparations for landing in England must be given priority over the Ireland (Green) operation." They were told that French vessels with French crews, as well as local fishing boats, German naval tugs and ferries could be used for training the assault troops, but that such ships were "scarce". Indeed, when the German Navy began its search for suitable vessels around the ports of north-western France, they found only two steamships - the French Versailles and the German Eule - together with three small coasters, the Meibello, Clio and Franzine. This was a poor start for an operation that would involve up to 50,000 men.

The High Command anticipated that there would be communication difficulties between ships during the long crossing to Ireland and from ship to shore after the first invasion force had landed; they recommended the use of "lamp signals, signalling rods, megaphones, etc" while observing radio silence. Special life-saving equipment would be carried aboard the invasion craft and Kaupisch's planners were warned "to avoid taking the crews of sinking vessels onto fully-manned ships, since this would place them in danger of capsizing". Every vessel was to carry anti-aircraft weapons and constitute a self-contained fighting unit. Clearly the High Command expected the Royal Navy and the RAF to intercept its Irish invasion fleet.

German troops of the invasion force would be covered by the Luftwaffe's West of France Air Command and - so far as sea defence was possible - by warships of the German Navy from Brest. The plans for Operation Green frankly admitted the possibility of

The helmets look German but the troops are Irish. The Nazi generals expected "no substantial resistance" and planned to use lightly-armed infantry and commando units in their assault.



Almost 4000 troops were to sail from three French ports and land on the Irish coast between Wexford and Dungarvan. They were then to push some 30 miles inland and establish a bridgehead running from Gorey across Mount Leinster and into Dungarvan.



Field Marshal von Bock conceived the plan to invade Ireland. The way the Germans were thinking was neatly captured in a cartoon by Low.

failure, in which case "landing at another point must be attempted". Withdrawal should take place "only in an extreme state of emergency".

Only three German divisions would take part in the first stages of the Irish invasion: 40 were scheduled to participate in Operation Sealion. It is possible that the German High Command never seriously intended to invade Ireland and there is evidence that they deliberately publicized Operation Green to stretch British defence preparations in advance of Sealion. Major General Walter Warlimont, Deputy Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command's operations staff, noted that on June 28 an instruction was issued "to the effect that in order to mislead the enemy 'all available information media' should spread the word that we were preparing a landing in Ireland to draw the net around England tighter and reinforce the 'siege'". But the extent of the planning and the distribution of the Green documents suggest that the Germans were contemplating a real landing in

The plans show that Operation Green was to have been a bold and extremely hazardous affair

the south-east of Ireland, if only to draw off British troops in Northern Ireland who might otherwise be sent to southern England to oppose Sealion.

There can be little doubt that the Germans did eventually plan to occupy the entire British Isles, and when their newly-formed Military Economic Staff for England - *Wehrwirtschaftsstab England* - met at the beginning of September 1940, they included Dublin among the six German administrative headquarters that were to have been set up in the two islands. Kaupisch continued his preparations for the Irish invasion throughout September, and only in mid-October - when Sealion had been postponed - was he allowed to slow the pace of his exercises, continuing them only as a pretence.

In the following month, however, Hitler took a personal interest in an invasion of Ireland, prompted perhaps by an Abwehr interception of British

radio traffic that suggested the British themselves were about to attack Eire. On December 3, 1940, he ordered Admiral Raeder's naval staff to investigate the chances of occupying Ireland. According to the record of that day's Führer Conference, Hitler believed that "a landing in Ireland can be attempted only if Ireland requests help. For the present our envoy [Eduard Hempel, German minister in Dublin] must ascertain whether he wishes to have his military equipment supplemented by captured British war material...which could be sent to him in independent ships...the occupation of Ireland might lead to the end of the war."

In fact, the Germans had already offered de Valera's government quantities of British guns captured at Dunkirk - the Irish prudently turned them down - and all Raeder's men could offer Hitler was the possibility that German blockade runners carrying weapons and ammunition might get through to Irish ports in the winter months "as long as there is still no state of war between Britain and Ireland and as long as the Irish cooperate".

Irish neutrality was to be respected and a landing made there only at de Valera's request. But the idea of an invasion was not yet dead. An attack on the island was to be considered by the Germans on two more occasions, and throughout the rest of 1940 and the following two years German printers at the Institut Cartographique Militaire in Brussels produced thousands of copies of their maps and literature for German soldiers in Ireland. *Military Geographical Data on Ireland* presented a uniquely Teutonic view of the country with a mass of generally accurate but frequently useless facts and statistics and a characteristic interest in Irish racial stock. The Irish, it disclosed, were "a mixture of western and Nordic components...the Irishman supports a

community founded upon equality for all, but associates with this an extraordinary personal need for independence which easily leads to indiscipline and pugnacity."

The handbook also contained an extremely detailed description of the Ardara power station on the Shannon, together with a map and diagram that was presumably furnished by the German architects who designed the plant. The list of Irish cities and towns which the volume also included was an amalgam of population figures and industrial geography although it failed to mention important military details. Tiny villages like Ballyhaunis ("County Mayo, 1,103 inhabitants") and Dalkey ("County Dublin, 4,135 inhabitants, bathing and residential area on southside of Dublin Bay, station and garage") were awarded a place in the list although Castle Town, in Cork, the nearest mainland berth to the military harbour at Berehaven, was omitted.

Some of the information was absurd. The German authors disclosed, for instance, that Magherafelt in County Londonderry was "a town with a big rectangular market square in the centre from which roads go to the north, south, east and west directions", an observation that was unlikely to be of immediate use to a German tank commander under fire. Other facts were tantalising in their obscurity. In Dublin, for example, there was a "project for a munitions factory, unknown if completed yet" in which a German officer would be more interested than the whereabouts of the Guinness brewery or the Jacob's biscuit factory.

The separate volume of photographs that accompanied this booklet contained 120 illustrations, most of them copies of postcards or newspaper pictures. These may have given the German Army a general idea of the sort of country they were invading but would have been of little military use.

Picture 19, for instance, shows a thatched cottage in the Kerry mountains outside of which a hen, two cows, an old woman in a long skirt, a small boy and a man in a bowler hat stare suspiciously at the camera. The caption announces: "People and animals often live together in one or two-roomed huts when there is no stable." Picture 74 is even less instructive. Captioned simply "Bogland in County Roscommon", it depicts a moss-covered wall amid mud and puddles, all partially obscured by heavy rain.

None of this material was likely to commend itself to diligent members of the Wehrmacht. The photographs of Ireland's cities might have proved

more useful. There is an aerial view of the centre of Belfast with the monumental facade of the City Hall dominating the surrounding rows of dark office blocks and the shams of the old Markets district. A picture of "Stadt Cork, St Patrickstrasse" probably gave a fair enough impression of daily commercial life in Eire's second city, with automobiles and petrol buses driving between pavements crowded with shoppers.

But an illustration captioned "Dublin, Stadtbild mit Liffeyfluss" would have been somewhat misleading. Apart from two electric trams negotiating the corner of O'Connell Bridge, the only vehicles to be seen are horse-drawn carriages. An elegant phaeton is approaching Bachelors Walk and the vessels moored in the fog opposite the Customs House down river are all sailing ships. The picture appears to have been taken at the end of the nineteenth century.

Of far less innocent provenance, however, were the illustrations to be found in two booklets. Photographs of the Irish coastline came from Luftwaffe photo-reconnaissance units and from snapshots apparently taken before the war by German tourists with an unerringly good eye for beach-heads. Three hundred and thirty-two photographs and coastal profiles were used to illustrate maps of a 1:250,000 scale, together with details of spring tides, geological formations and possible military routes inland from the beaches.

The Irish authorities were well aware that the Germans were photographing their coastline. On December 29, 1940, a Luftwaffe plane flew low over Dublin, coming under fire from Irish anti-aircraft batteries outside the city; on another occasion a German plane that crash-landed in Eire was found to have a photographer on board.

The Luftwaffe paid particular attention to possible invasion beaches. A three-section photograph was also assembled of the lower half of Lough Foyle in Northern Ireland, a fold-out plate that covered the land and sea shore from the outskirts of Londonderry almost to Magilligan Point. The pictures show the long, flat beaches north-west of Limavady and two RAF airfields - Eglinton and Ballykelly - as well as the Belfast-Londonderry railway line. Black lines had been superimposed on the airfields to emphasize the runways.

Several other photographs in this collection were of the Kerry coast. One illustration of the Blasket Islands was from a picture postcard, with magnetic north overprinted in the foreground. Several pages contained frames of Sybil Point and Sea Head on the Dingle peninsula; at least one of these photographs was taken from the sea, perhaps from a submarine, and five from the shore-line on a small camera. Drawings and sketches of the Blaskets were also included with mileage charts. These may have been the work of a German brass band which stayed in the town of Cahirsiveen on the south side of Dingle Bay in 1937; local people remember the musicians "drawing maps" as they relaxed in fields above the sea between performances.

But while German intelligence work on Ireland was detailed, thorough and only occasionally careless, no attempt was made to conduct any serious analysis into the politics of the partitioned island. The Gestapo had prepared for themselves a 100 page handbook on Britain, *Informationsheft GB*, which contained an assessment of political groups and organizations in the country. There was a brief reference in it to the Communist Party of Eire but otherwise no mention of Ireland was made.

A separate 350-page *Sonderführungsliste GB* comprised a list of those people in public life who lived in Britain and who were to be arrested after occupation. Churchill's Irish-born confidant Brendan Bracken - later to become British Minister of Information - was on the list and so was "Claude (sic) Cockburn, 56 Jahr alt, Korrespondent", but no other Irish name appears, not even Craigavon and his ministers in Belfast. Nor was a corresponding handbook published for the Gestapo on Eire or Northern Ireland.

If Ireland was to be occupied, it would be as a means to the invasion of Britain, an object of military but not political attention. Doubtless the Gestapo would have arrived in Dublin and Belfast once the island was in German hands, but it was important only as the back door of Britain's defences, a spring-board for the final blow against Germany's only surviving European enemy.

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The last time I saw Venice...



Miles Kingston is on holiday. As I write this, I am sitting at a cafe table in Venice.

Well, no, that is not strictly true. As you read this, I am sitting at a cafe table in Venice. I am actually writing this at a desk in Notting Hill before I leave for Venice on a week's holiday, so that next week (or now, as you would call it) I don't have to sit down in Venice and write a piece.

Of course, I could simply have taken a week's holiday from *The Times*, but unfortunately I forgot to warn my editor in time for him to find a replacement. It was all so much easier when this column appeared on a page with the obituaries, where they could simply find more people who had recently died to replace me with. Apparently this page

doesn't work like that. As it is, here I am writing a piece instead of being on holiday. But at least there is one advantage to this.

Since I have not gone to Venice yet, I cannot write a piece about Venice. As I sit now at my cafe table, I reflect that as I wrote this piece several days ago, you are spared yet another outpouring on the wonders of Venice, the shame of it sinking into a sea and the greatness of Cipriani's Hotel on the Lido. Who wants another piece about Venice?

And there is a great difficulty in writing about Venice, apart from the fact of not having been there, as I have not, and that is the difficulty of finding an opening sentence. Venice seems to bring out the opening sentence in writers. Was it not Thomas Mann, who opened that depressing guide book with the

MOREOVER Miles Kingston

words "Streets full of water. Please advise?" Or was it perhaps Robert Benchley?

Much earlier, the great French humorist Alphonse Allais opened a dispatch from Venice with words that bring back the Victorian era with a sharp shock. "The most striking thing that greets one's first arrival in Venice is the complete and utter absence of the smell of horse manure." It is hard to rival that as an opening. We are used to seeing great European cities full of water these days (last week it was Cologne that was suddenly full of impromptu canals) but the absence of something that is what I should aim for.

I am told by people who can't stand Venice - a secretive but

strong minority - that the most striking thing about Venice today is the complete absence of Italians. That the only natives one sees are those employed to service the tourist armies, and that they all go back to the mainland at night. This may or may not be true, and as I sit here at my cafe table, I have probably worked out the truth or otherwise, but as I said, I am not here yet.

When I said I had never been to Venice, this was not quite true. When I was in my early teens, my father took us all on a trip to northern Italy, but all I can remember from that earlier visit was the complete absence of steam trains, of which I was inordinately fond, and the high quality of the ice creams. It isn't much to build a knowledge of

Venice on, especially as I now see from the map I bought at Stanford's this morning that there is a large railway station in Venice and that if only I had known where to look I would have found any amount of steam trains.

Looking back, I suspect that my father knew, but didn't tell me. My passion for steam engines used to interfere with holiday plans considerably. When we went to Paris he wanted to go up the Eiffel Tower and I wanted to go to the Gare St Lazare. When we went to Edinburgh one year, I took a train out of Edinburgh to Inverkeithing and back so that I could go across the Forth Bridge twice.

Anyway, as I sit here at the table of the buffet in Venice Station - but I am not sure if my present companion will want to spend a morning at

Venice Station, even if I try to persuade her that it is worth seeing the Orient Express arrive, or that I might get a good opening line out of it. Railway station full of water. Please advise. Complete absence of smell of steam. Venice - gateway to the mainland....

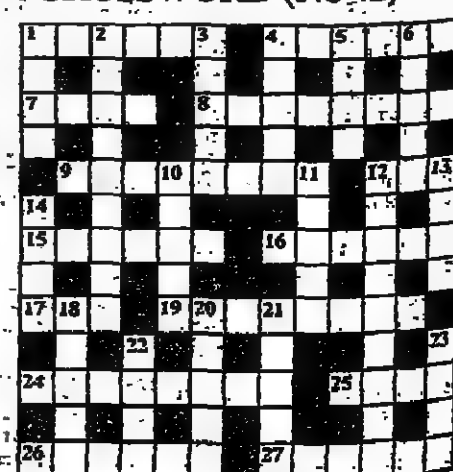
I am not sure I ought to write a piece about Venice at all, even when I have come back and am, after a week there, an expert on the place. I am reminded of that greatest of all openings to all travel books, *By Rocking Chair Across America*, by Alex Atkinson and Ronald Searle. It starts:

"Most travel books about America are written by people who have spent a mere few weeks there. This one is quite different. It is written by someone who has never been there in his life."

Quite so, Walter, another Campari and soda, please.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 42)

- ACROSS
4 Dedicate (6)
5 Percussion instrument (6)
7 Bone (4)
8 Openwork (5)
9 Lacquered (8)
12 Ugly woman (3)
15 Printed cotton (6)
16 Tub (6)
17 Piston (3)
18 Compress (8)
19 Sleeplessness (8)
25 Couch (4)
26 Brief look (6)
27 Defraud (6)
- DOWN
1 Smear (4)
2 Wanton destruction (9)
3 Impish (5)
4 Sweet liqueur (5)
5 Cuts grass (4)
6 Artery (5)
10 Mexican Indian (5)
11 Male duck (5)
12 Zodiacal forecast
13 Wound mark (4)
14 Wound mark (4)
16 Male void (5)



- SOLUTION TO No 41
ACROSS: 1 Gravel 5 Wary 8 Lycee 9 Applaud 11 Phatich 13 List 15 Accordion 18 Pint 19 Fall Mail 22 Cassock 23 Wagon 24 Oak 25 Tardem
DOWN: 2 Racco 3 Vie 4 Leatherjacket 5 Wept 6 Realizer 7 Elope 10 Dank 12 Inch 14 Dist 15 Amnesia 16 Epic 17 Fleck 20 Agate 21 Pope 23 Wau

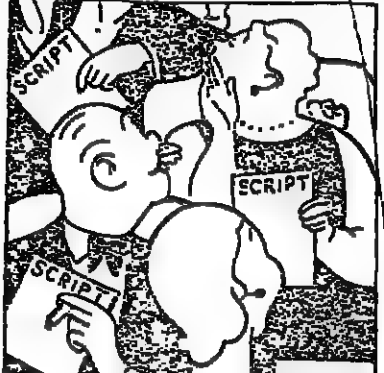
WEDNESDAY PAGE

JOANNA LUMLEY'S DIARY

Whatever would Noel have said?

The rehearsal room is the colour of raspberry yoghurt: a great elephant-coloured curtain hangs over one wall in heavy stained folds, finally drooping sadly on to the mantelpiece. Stacked in one corner are chipped pub tables, two chairs, long upholstered in purple plush and a mass of cardboard boxes. The room is lit by six neon strips: it is indecently dirty and the windows haven't been cleaned for a decade. There is a bright little fire which we feed with coal from a plastic washing-up bowl, and the vast space is heated by about midday.

A bit of a palaver to go to the lavatory, though: it involves keys and padlocks and a sprint through the car park, jump a puddle and don't forget to lock the door when you leave in case someone tries to steal the aging Adamant fixtures, or worse still, uses them. Bring your own paper, but the rehearsal room

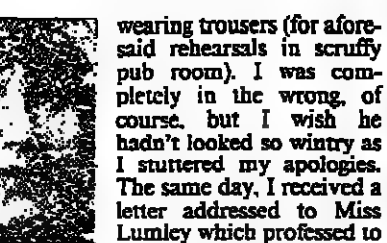


does have three coffee spoons and an electric kettle. You can see through the piano, as its panels have fallen off and the pedals are missing. Every day we strive to reconstruct the elegance and gaiety of Noel Coward and Gertrude Lawrence; as we scuffle through the dust, we smooth our imaginary evening dresses and push our hands into the pockets of phantom dinner jackets. It was ever thus: I suspect it will be ever thus. Simon Cadell, like Coward, turns up in a suit. I wear my oldest clothes. I am ashamed to say, but that's only because I have to sit on the floor.

I met Simon Cadell on a train one Monday two years ago. We spent four hours in a first class compartment arguing, declaring our love for each other, throwing things, hugging, then more arguing: that night we did it all again in front of an audience, and the play was *Private Lives*. The Friday before, a serious leg injury had killed James Villiers, who was playing Elvira, on Saturday. I went on with the gallant understudy, while London was combed for a replacement. Cadell was alerted on Sunday: by some miracle, he learned the three-act play in a day and our only chance to run the lines was during the journey north.

What an extraordinary evening: incandescent with terror, we played through the show, perfect strangers in front of a packed house, whirling each other like hawks. Neither of us can remember much of what we did, but we have already started to embroider the tale. Simon, justifiably, is shrinking the scene time he had to learn it ("Quarter of an hour with the book, then 'beginners, please'"; and so have I!). And onto the stage came a man I'd never met before in my life... But it's still a grand story.

Much against my better judgment, I agreed to stick my nose into Elvira's to see if I could track down a colleague on a literary affair of some urgency. A man with a Barman expression showed me hurriedly to the door because, under my beautiful dark blue wool Jean Muir coat, I was



wearing trousers (for afore-said rehearsals in scruffy pub room). I was completely in the wrong, of course, but I wish he hadn't looked so wintry as I stuttered my apologies. The same day, I received a letter addressed to Miss Lumley which professed to be a personal invitation to a dinner party. It urged me to bring my wife. What's a chap to do?

Because my old vacuum cleaner (a reconditioned job painted milky green) had started to blow instead of suck, I went out and spent a king's ransom on a new one. The advertisement shows a girl fairly shimmering about the house in a short skirt, and with the mucky detachable appliances she is able to extract filth from every conceivable crevice - she even Hoovers the curtains. I unpacked the main body of the machine (rather larger than I had expected), fitted the plug and off we went. My, what power! Little unexpected grains of sand sprung up from the carpets and bobbed and littered in anticipation of being swallowed. I noticed a height adjuster, with pictures denoting length of carpet: bald, crew-cut and waving corn. I snapped it on to medium and set off behind the sofa. The machine, however, had spotted the long-haired rug and seized it with a roar, chewing and growling until its jaws were full.

I disentangled it, switched it to cornfield and followed it down to the junk room. I got at the side of a pile of newspapers, nipping little pieces off and devouring them instantly, and two nice safety-pins disappeared before I could bend down to grab them. I clicked it on to bald and went into the kitchen. It has a special bald attachment on a limp oesophagus (probably for cleaning the bath) but it was difficult to control. I found I had to hunch right over and creep about like Quasimodo, steering it while it fasted on onion skins and rubber bands. It was only when, scooped and exhausted, I crammed it into the tiny broom cupboard that the long stiff tube, which ought to have gone twice round the neck, toppled slowly out. It ain't what you do, it's the way that you do it.



A hitherto undreamed-of occasion for playing *The Murderer Winks* (I described the rules two weeks ago) on stage, during performances of long, slow-paced Shakespearean dramas. Apparently it's an old favourite with actors. Of course, discretion is de rigueur: the winks, must not be spotted by the audience, and one does have to be reduced to ducking your chin on to your chest for a moment.

Try saying "Peggy Babcock, Peggy Babcock, Peggy Babcock" out loud.

Friday: Shirley Lowe interviews Lana Turner about how stardom upset family life



Foxed: rejected candidate Hugh Simmonds and family

Paul Pickering meets a female master of foxhounds who galloped in pursuit of human quarry - her local prospective Conservative candidate

A-hunting we will go

The head of a large hare hangs on the wall behind her ladyship. It wears the puzzled expression of a creature who is about his own business one minute and the next finds himself fastened to a board in a comfortable drawing room of a Queen Anne country house. Lady Crossman, senior joint master of the Cambridgeshire Foxhounds points out her favourite trophy, a snarling fox head by a window looking out on the family's 500 acres: "There is nothing better than a good hunt," she says with a smile.

Another sort of kill brought Lady Crossman and her husband Sir Peter into the news last week. They flushed a Conservative prospective political candidate Hugh Simmonds from cover when they heard his wife was a member of the League Against Cruel Sports and they savaged him ferociously. His adoption as a candidate, which he thought a formality, was promptly blocked, proving that pre-Tebbit Tories of the shires still have clout. One almost expected to find the bemused Mr Simmonds's head on the wall by the hare.

Mr Simmonds still cannot believe what happened. "I was not merely astounded but stunned. What they wanted was an MP and his wife would gallop to hounds. I tried to explain my view to Sir Peter and Lady Crossman for three quarters of an hour. The decision is not a reflection of the constituency, which is one third industrial."

His wife Janet added: "I don't

like foxhunting, but if someone wants to do it, that is up to them. We had thought Hugh's adoption was just a formality. Instead, the unlucky Beaconsfield solicitor glimpsed his party's killer instinct."

Foxhunting for the Crossmans is their whole life, a mannered game governed by strict rules of fair play, decency and common sense. Lady Crossman was hunting almost as soon as she could walk: "I followed the hunt on a donkey at the age of three and then I had a little pony called Blackie. Yes, I was blooded. I think all children want to be blooded."

To see a kill is proof of one's horsemanship

"Blooded" is the foxhunting ritual where the faces of children are daubed with the blood of the freshly killed fox: "My only reservation," continued Lady Crossman, "was that it was pouring with rain and the blood washed off by the time I got home to show my father."

But neither Lady Crossman nor Sir Peter could be described as intentionally cruel or insensitive. Lady Crossman has been joint master of the hunt for 23 years, and followed in the footsteps of her mother Kathleen, who hunted side saddle, and was master for 13 years. Sir Peter fitted in three years as

master between being chairman of Watney Mann and of the National Union of the Conservative Party.

When the hapless Mr Simmonds tried to placate Sir Peter by saying he shot 1,000 starlings a week in his suburban orchard, he would only have inspired distaste. It was almost as absurd as telling a matador one is a dab hand with the slug pellets.

Most huntmen are keen conservationists: "I love to see a fox, especially nibbling at the blackberries. I like watching a litter of cubs playing in the summer," said Lady Crossman. "I don't applaud on seeing one killed, but if it is killed fairly and squarely, by the rules and by the hounds, then I am pleased, partly because I am attached to the hounds. It is a paradox."

"People say we like seeing a fox torn to pieces. Very few people who go hunting actually see the kill, it's only if you are in front." To see a kill is proof of one's horsemanship.

"The only real justification is the hounds kill the fox instantly. Poison is horrible; I have seen hounds poisoned with strychnine and it's a slow agonizing death."

"We are cousins," said Lady Crossman, aged 66, who married Sir Peter, 73, just before the last war. They spent the rest of it trying to get together, hunting all the time: "I was sent to Palestine with the cavalry," said Sir Peter. "I used to ride with the Rowle Vale pack, the only one in Palestine. Then there was the Exodus foxhounds out of Bag-

dad. We used to hunt jackals of course." Lady Crossman was a Foreign Office cipher clerk and worked in Morocco and Beirut before eventually meeting Sir Peter in Cairo, where unfortunately there was no hunting.

Since the turn of the century women foxhunters have enjoyed equality with men: "My mother was a pioneer," said Lady Crossman who employs three full-time hunting staff. "We kill 25 brace of foxes a year", she adds proudly.

Politics is taboo: "We never ask anyone their politics." Could Tariq Ali ride with the pack if he wanted to? "One would know his views," said her ladyship drolly. "The socialists want us to drag

There are no hunts behind the Iron Curtain

hunt without a fox but its far too slow. It is the uncertainty of a hunt that's important, not knowing where you are going and the speed. There are no hunts behind the Iron Curtain," which to the Crossmans is the ultimate restriction of communism. "There was a good pack of borzois used on wolves in Poland before the war," recalled Sir Peter.

"I don't think anyone will ever stop us hunting," said a determined Lady Crossman. An awful lot of foxes would agree with her.

It was such a little lump - the size of a pea... and a petit pois at that

FIRST PERSON

By Beryl Downing

"Hello? Oh, I'm very well, thank you. I had a touch of cancer last week, but I'm fine now. How are you?" This is not a sick joke. It is actually how I feel about this boggy disease - not much more than a bout of flu. But then I was lucky. I found it before it was too late. It was such a little lump, really. Only the size of a pea - and a petit pois at that. My doctor thought it could be dispersed by injection, but the consultant said not. If there were anything nasty there, the cells could be disseminated. It had to be cut out - a little operation, nothing to worry about.

It was not until I was inescapably tucked up in St Bartholomew's Abernethy ward that the alarm bells rang. The consultant form was not only for the removal of the lump, but also for "any further surgery" found to be necessary. I added "apart from a complete mastectomy" before I signed. "I don't care what you find," I said. "I want you to wake me up and tell me about it first. If I come round and find I'm lop-sided I won't be able to cope."

So it was a couple of days after the first operation that the lab reported that a small section of tissue had proved malignant and they couldn't be sure they had got it all out. A radical mastectomy was advised. It was the only proven cure. I was told, and most women were so frightened of the disease they felt relief at knowing it had been cut out for ever.

Do they? I don't believe it. I could not have borne to meet myself in the bathroom mirror every day for the rest of my life and be disgusted by my mutilation. It has nothing to do with vanity or husbands or lovers, present or potential. It is a question of being comfortable with oneself, of wearing one's body without thinking about it, like a well-worn anorak.

So there was much sympathetic discussion - and that is one of the characteristics of Barts that make it such an outstanding teaching hospital: everyone from consultants to junior nurses, however busy and however overtaxed, was prepared to give time to listening as well as to doing - not an attribute of every NHS hospital.

A segmental mastectomy was agreed, followed by six weeks of radiotherapy - a combination of treatment, increasingly accepted to be as effective as a radical, provided the lump is in the outer segment of the breast. If the tumour is no bigger than two centimetres, 60 per cent of women suffer no recurrence, which is why early diagnosis is so vital.

The surgery was performed not only with medical skill, but with such cosmetic care that in less than a week I was assured that eventually there would be nothing more noticeable than "a slight asymmetry".

Then came the radiotherapy. I was one of the first patients in the country to be treated on the new American Varian machine which is said to improve treatment through greater reliability. Again I had the greatest possible care, with constant attention to the effects on skin, blood and bones, plus an encouraging cheerfulness from staff and fellow patients which made me feel I was an honorary member of a very informal club.

I was warned that I would feel tired, and I did, but I reckoned if my body couldn't

cope it would let me know, so I went straight from my daily treatments to the office and had care for the first time to benefit from working in a man's world. Men understand illness if they can see it. Break an arm and they will sympathize. But if a woman behaves in an irrational way because she is tired and touchy, for whatever sound medical reason, she is labelled menstrual or menopausal and treated kindly but without much intellectual respect.

It was precisely the need to disprove that attitude - to myself if to no one else - that helped me to survive. There is no time for minor skirmishes of self pity when there is a larger war to win. The worst thing anyone said to me - a friend's husband, thinking I was being sympathetic - was "Take some time off - nobody is indispensable". The best was when I told my doctor I had agreed to the segmental mastectomy. "I'm glad," she said briskly. "I had it done 12 years ago."

I am convinced that a positive, up-beat attitude such as hers helps to exorcise the disease as well as the fear by encouraging more open discussion. If other people are embarrassed by the word it is the fault of those of us who have had the disease. We should share the good experiences, not the bad. I was much more frightened by other people's dire warnings than by anything that actually happened.

Of course there are much more severe cases than mine. I shared 10 days of their lives in hospital and I shall always remember and admire the selflessness and strength of spirit which so many of them showed. It helped to convince me that, given the right medical help, the rest of the battle is won in the mind. Some have faith, some have courage, some, like me, are just bloody minded. What does it matter what you call it, as long as it works?

Peter Riches

THE TIMES COOK



Shona Crawford Poole

Pork and lean

far before the common way of cooking it.

Rillettes of pork
Makes about 880g (1½ lbs)
900g (2lb) rindless belly of pork
110g (4oz) pure lard
1 sprig thyme
1 bay leaf

Quatre-epices, a mixture of ground cloves, ginger, nutmeg and white pepper
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Cut the pork into smallish cubes about 3cm (just over 1in) square and put them in a heavy based pot or casserole with the lard and three or four tablespoons of cold water. Cook the meat, covered, on a very low heat indeed for about six hours. The right heat is just below boiling point and when the meat is done, it is meltingly tender. Not all the fat will liquify.

Drain the meat from the liquid fat and reserve the fat. When the meat is cool enough to handle, shred it finely, using your fingers or a pair of forks to break it up. Return it to the pan with 150ml (¼ pint) of the liquid fat, being careful not to include the stock. (This rich stock makes an excellent gravy base for another occasion.) Add the herbs, spices and salt to taste, seasoning the meat highly as the flavourings will fade a little when the rillettes are served cold. Cook the meat for another 15 minutes or so, stirring it from time to time to blend and distribute the flavour.

Put the meat into sterilized pots or jars and press it down well with the back of a spoon. Cover with a layer of the fat previously strained off and leave until quite cold. When the fat has set, run another layer of fat over the top to ensure a good seal, and when that too has set, cover the jars with foil of plastic film. Store in a cool place, or the refrigerator. Carefully made rillettes will keep for up to six months.

Serve rillettes like paté with toast, or better still, with well-made crusty bread. To sterilize glazed stoneware or porcelain pots, or glass jars, either case the pots should be well-washed first.

To boil them set them in a large pot, immersing them completely in cold water. Bring to the boil and boil them for five minutes, then leave to cool in the water. Drain and dry on freshly boiled tea cloths.

To sterilize jars by baking, set them, open end up, on a baking sheet and place in a cold oven. Heat the oven to cool (150°C/300°F, gas mark 2) and leave the jars at that heat for five minutes or until needed. Fill the jars as soon as they are taken from the oven.

Potted hough makes beefy sandwich filling, or a topping for buttery toast. It is also good served in slices with baked or sautéed potatoes and a salad. The heat of the potatoes amplifies the taste of the meat.

Potted hough

Makes about 680g (1½ lbs)
900g (2lb) boneless shin of beef
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 tablespoon unflavoured gelatine (optional, see recipe)

If your beef is cut from the end of the leg nearest the hoof it will have plenty of gelatine rich gristle to melt into the meat during its long, slow cooking.

Put the meat, in one piece, in a heavy pot and cover it with water. Bring to simmering point, cover and leave it to cook slowly for five or six hours, or until it is meltingly tender. Add boiling water as necessary to keep the meat immersed. Drain the meat and set it aside to cool. Strain the stock back into the pan, skim it of fat and reduce it to about 600ml (1 pint) by fast boiling. If the reduced stock does not feel sticky on your lips, the beef has too little gelatine to set the dish well and the extra gelatine should be added now.

Chop the meat finely, against the grain, discarding any pieces of visible skin, fat or gristle. Return it to the pan and season it to taste with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Season generously to take account of the effect of serving the meat cold. Bring the meat to the boil then pour it into one or more spotlessly clean bowls or boxes.

Plastic refrigerator boxes make a loaf shaped mould for easily sliced meat.

Potted hough keeps for several days in the refrigerator but does not freeze successfully because of its high gelatine content.

THE TIMES DIARY

Red terror

Sir Harold Wilson has been touring the Soviet Union pouring oil on waters troubled by the tide of expulsions between London and Moscow. He was not helped by his almost obsessive references to "Trotsky" in the Labour party. Sir Harold told Soviet leaders from Moscow to Tashkent that the greatest threat to British democracy came from followers of Trotsky "who must be turning in his grave at the thought of what is done in his name."

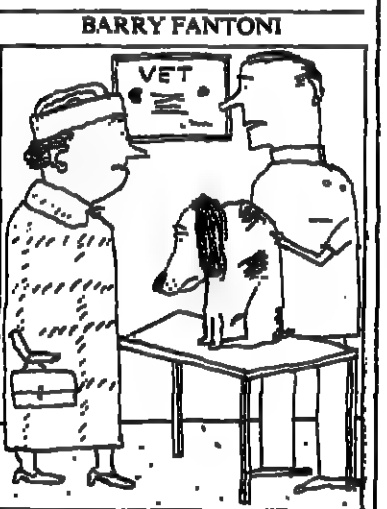
"Of course," he added, "you know all about Trotskyists, and as far as I am concerned you can have them back." The Russians, for whom the name of Trotsky is anathema, were agitated at the thought that the heretic Stalin had murdered a greater threat to capitalism than all the might of Soviet communism.

● Sir Harold also revealed his formula for not consuming too much vodka at Soviet receptions. He begins his toast: "I was once president of the Royal Statistical Society. If he can't say it, he has another drink. If he can't, he doesn't."

Wormcatcher

I got to the office early yesterday, and so was the only person available to take a call from Des Wilson, chairman of Friends of the Earth and the Campaign for Leadfree Air. "You would think I would be soaking in champagne, wouldn't you, after the Government's decision to phase lead out of petrol?" he cried. "Far from it. I was in at 5.30 am, organizing the Green Rally for April 27. There's a lot to do when you're filling Central Hall, Westminster, with 3,000 people twice a day, with meetings to follow in Leeds and Bristol, businessmen's seminars, a lead conference..." And still he finds time to ring the papers. I have, I thought, clearly, had more encouraging starts to the day.

● A South American airline captain addressing his passengers before take-off: "Government regulations require us to warn passengers of our safety equipment..."



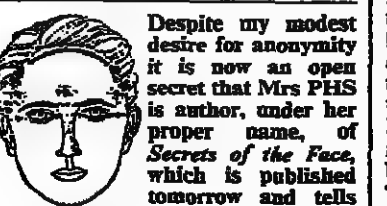
Barry Fantoni
"If he's only off his food, I suggest you give him a rum with the Berkeley Ham."

True to life

Twenty-three portraits of American rock stars are to be donated to the Theatre Museum's permanent collection, although the originals were destroyed by thieves who stole them in 1979. David Onyiah's paintings of Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Little Richard, Fats Domino, Bill Haley and others had been put on to colour transparencies by a fine art photographer beforehand. From the slides, five inches by four inches, the Vision Gallery was able to recreate the pictures in highest quality photographic print at their original size, up to eight feet by five feet. Before the pictures go to the Theatre Museum, it is hoped to put them on show as part of the British Salutes New York festival at the Songwriters' Hall of Fame on Times Square, but a sponsor to make that possible is still being sought.

Irish spoken here

A PHSout has been enjoying an Irish break in London. He started by arriving at King's Cross and finding a British Rail luggage trolley marked: "For passenger use only. Not to be removed from Euston. He is staying at the London Tara Hotel; Tara is Irish for earth, and the hotel has a very Irish flavour. The room service menu offers Tralee broth and Paddy's whiskey, and on the in-house telephone directory it says: "For emergencies dial 888." The guest asked the telephone operator to help him place a call to Senegal. The response was: "Would that be in Ireland, now?"



PHS

Why can't a serviceman sue?

by Jack Ashley

On Sunday, November 16, 1980, Martin Kettick, a 23-year-old fitness enthusiast, was abseiling down rocks in the Lake District. When he was 40ft from the ground someone cut the rope from which he was suspended. His injuries were horrific.

He suffered a broken spinal chord, fractured skull and punctured lung. Now, three years later, he is a paraplegic, doubly incontinent and mainly confined to a wheelchair. In the circumstances, and in view of his lost earning capacity, he naturally thought of exercising the usual right of suing for negligence. But Martin Kettick is denied that right because, when he broke his back on a training exercise, he was a British serviceman. As a corporal in the Royal Marines he, like all other servicemen, had signed away his rights on enlistment.

This was to have a profound effect on his financial future. Had he been able to prove in court that a non-commissioned officer had been negligent in cutting the rope before checking his safety, he would probably have been awarded compensation of up to £300,000. Instead, in addition to the equivalent of an industrial injuries payment, and a gratuity of £3,553, he was dispatched with an invaliding payment of some £47 a week.

The reason was that Section 10 of the Crown Proceedings Act, 1947, prevents a serviceman from suing the Crown or another serviceman for negligence.

This is an acceptable doctrine for servicemen in battle. When they sign on they incur and accept risks of serious injury or death in action. But it is a monstrous deprivation of rights for servicemen engaged in day-to-day activities in normal times.

Act fails to make the obvious distinction between the position of servicemen on the rare occasions they are in action and when they are not.

Section 10 of the Act is vigorously, but unconvincedly, supported by the Ministry of Defence. It claims that there is no reasonable and easily definable dividing line between military action and other activities. Any serviceman could soon put them right about that.

Ministers argue that if a serviceman was allowed to sue for negligence it would endanger discipline. But discipline has little or nothing to do with legal redress. The Ministry of Defence have acknowledged that all serious injuries and accidental deaths are formally investigated and that disciplinary action can, and does, follow.

'When they sign on they accept risks of serious injury or death in action. But it is a monstrous deprivation of rights in normal times'

There is no reason to believe that discipline would be affected if an injured serviceman had the right to sue for negligence. But to buttress the discipline argument, ministers claim that conferring such legal rights would create anomalies, blithely disregarding the basic anomaly that servicemen are denied a right given to other comparable public servants. If police or firemen are injured, they get the same invaliding pension as servicemen, but in addition they can sue for negligence.

As a last resort, ministers point out that servicemen may not be able to prove negligence. Maybe not. But perhaps some of them can, and that should be for the courts to decide. To justify Section 10, the Ministry of Defence would have to prove that there was no negligence in the Forces, and since this is patently absurd, they should allow the courts to decide when it occurs.

In Martin Kettick's case, a senior NCO was severely reprimanded for his part in the accident. While that is not conclusive proof of negligence, it is important evidence which ought to be asserted by a court.

Section 10 was enacted in 1947, just after a devastating world war, and it is perhaps understandable that individual rights were not accorded the highest priority. Today, despite commitments such as Northern Ireland, or involvements such as the Falklands, our servicemen protect us as a deterrent force rather than an active one. In these circumstances, Section 10 is an unjust and unnecessary part of the Crown Proceedings Act. By supporting it the Ministry of Defence is acting against the interests of individual servicemen. For no real gain, except administrative convenience, it is creating resentment among disabled ex-servicemen.

Ministers should seek forthwith the restoration of the legal right to sue for negligence, except during military action. If they are unable to bring themselves to act in this reasonable way, they should at least establish the principle of generous discretionary payments to servicemen whose lives have been shattered by the negligence of others.

The author is Labour MP for Stoke, South.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

Pass the broken phone, I want to pray

I see that British Telecom is about to offer the public the consolations of religion in the form of a Dial-a-Prayer service. Oh, good; I shall be first in the queue for it, and my prayer will be that British Telecom should let me have a copy of the L-R London Directory, for which I have been asking regularly and frequently for more than five months, and that they should send somebody to replace my broken telephone, which I have now been asking them to do, at even more frequent intervals, for three months.

Other, more glib, folk believed that when the telephone and postal services were separated, one or the other, or even both, would become, if not efficient (too much to hope for), at any rate less implacably indifferent to the wishes of the paying public. Not I, though; whatever else I am suffering from at their hands, it is not disappointment for no man can be disappointed not to get what he never expected. A Dial-a-Prayer service British Telecom can provide; special phones in the form of Mickey Mouse are readily available; I dare say that you can ring up for fairy-tales in Urdu if you know the right number; but one thing we shall not get from them is the smallest trace, on the part of the people who run the thing, of a willingness to do the work they are paid for, and for which they fleece their customers.

There is a crucial qualification in that paragraph: it is the people who run the thing who can't be bothered to work for their wages. Whenever a telephone engineer manages to extract the news that his skills are needed by a subscriber, it is my experience that he provides them, cheerfully and expeditiously, just as the destruction of the postal service has been achieved elsewhere than at doorstep level; who ever met an unpleasant or incompetent postman?

My telephone problem, incidentally, is hardly the most intractable ever heard of; the damaged instrument is the plug-in type, so all they need to do is to bring a new handset and plug it in. But for those "in charge" of British Telecom, there is no distinction between great problems and small, for their response to news of a need on the part of the

customers is identical whatever the nature of the need: amusement, tinged with genuine outrage, at our presumption. This, of course, is the attitude they clearly took when they (leaving plenty behind) when they left the Post Office; that noisome institution has always believed that a customer is an incontinent nuisance, and the sooner all the nuisances can be got rid of the quicker the Post Office can go back to sleep.

Do not comfort yourself with the thought that these attitudes are the exclusive province of the public sector, or if you do, allow me to introduce my laundry, high Brook Green, of west London. On January 10 they lost the belt of a rather pretty cotton bathrobe in purple check thus rendering it useless at a stroke, for it

'I find myself writing notes of thanks to accompany my payment of the bill - merely because I have got what I paid for'

has no buttons or other fastenings. My letter of gentle remonstrance was first denied ("We're trying to trace it") and when admitted, ignored. It is true that at some time in the history of the matter they telephoned to say that they had made me up a belt "to match", in white towelling, but when I reminded them that the bathrobe was neither towelling nor white, they apologized most charmingly and thereupon entirely lost interest in the subject; at any rate I have never heard another word, and my letter remains unanswered. And I am still owed a rather pretty cotton bathrobe in purple check.

I have noticed, and I have noticed my friends and acquaintances noticing, that when an individual, organization or firm with whom we have dealings of a purely commercial character carries out our instructions, or meets our expressed wishes, correctly and quickly, it is matter for delight, praise and discussion; we ring each other up (those of us with telephones that are not broken, that is) to announce the

amazing news that Messrs. Short-brook and Sydes have managed to deliver the fish-fingers at their very first attempt, or that we have heard of a firm of solicitors who not only understand their clients' legal problems but frequently solve them. Indeed, it goes further; I find myself - and in this, too, I am not by any means unique - writing notes of thanks and congratulations to accompany my payment of the bill, merely because I have got what I wanted, ordered and paid for.

Paid for? I am not asking anything of British Telecom that is not in my contract with them. I have paid them good money for, among other things, a telephone-directory, and I am being swindled out of more money in the form of the telephone calls I am making to try to get them to honour the contract. As for the broken instrument, I am not so foolish as to believe that they will repair or replace it free, nor do I propose to insist that they should. But I believe that I am justified in requiring that they should repair or replace it, and should stop ignoring my requests that they do so. And, *mutatis mutandis*, I am not so foolish as to think that a laundry will never lose its customers' garments, but nor am I so feeble as to find acceptable the behaviour I have described.

The clue lies in the attitude I have described: the widespread feeling of surprise and pleasure when some body does what he or she is paid to do. The decline of efficiency is widespread and very marked, and is not to be confused with nostalgia; whether summers used to be warmer or caviar older depends only on truly subjective judgments, but although it is difficult to measure efficiency it is not quite impossible, and I have no doubt at all that it has materially diminished.

Why? I must brace myself, in giving a tentative answer, for narrow-minded accusations that I wish to send small children up chimneys (first inducing rickets in them) and revive the practice of flogging miscreants at the cart-tail before having them transported to Australia. All the same, I believe that the almost complete elimination of any penalty for inefficiency has materially contributed to its



increase. In organizations like British Telecom and the Post Office it must now be virtually unthinkable for anyone to be rebuked, let alone demoted, for failing without excuse to carry out an allotted task, and elsewhere, to lesser but still very significant extent, the same picture can be seen.

No sane person, surely, can do anything but deplore the apparently immutable truth about human nature which decrees that human beings need disincentives for failure as well as incentives for success. But since it is apparently immutable, it can do nobody any good to behave as though it is not only immutable, but already muted.

A year or two or three ago, I had a run-in with the folk who run Heathrow. (Mr Comptroller, if you wish to insert an "in" in "run", please feel free.) My complaint was that I had filled in no fewer than four of the cards they provide at the airport for comments, complaints, queries and suggestions from the passengers, all four asking the same question, but that I had never received any reply at all, though I had put my name and address, as requested, on the card. I therefore deduced that the cards were simply thrown away when collected, and having deduced it, said it.

The charge was denied with heat - nay, with fervour. Shock, horror and amazement were expressed at the very idea. Their one desire, they insisted, was to attend with all possible dispatch to their customers' wishes. The cards, they insisted, were treated as though each one was a Rembrandt drawing. The staff were instructed to wear clean white gloves before handling them. It was a tragedy of an inexpressibly sad nature that all four of mine had been unaccountably lost.

I was much impressed by all this concern. But I noticed that nowhere in the defence and explanation was any interest expressed in just what I had put on the cards, and from that day to this they have never troubled to inquire what it was that had been bothering me. I rest my case.

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Professor Ivor Crewe (centre): did he get it right in weighing the balance between supporters of David Steel and Roy Jenkins?

candidate is starting from second place in what is effectively a two-party fight. Currie and Steel, who Roy Jenkins's victory at Hillhead with 33.4 per cent of the vote in a three-and-a-half party contest, and contrast it with John Pardo's defeat in north Cornwall in 1979 with 44 per cent of the vote.

They suggest that local Liberal negotiators may have been dazzled by the superficial attractions of seats where the Liberal vote was above the national average last time but

overlooked the fact that it may not be easy to push up further. In doing so, they may have allowed the SDP a larger share of seats which may in the end be better prospects.

The SDP negotiators were working with the help of an analysis written by Professor Ivor Crewe of Essex University of opinion polls in 1981 covering 40,000 voters. The results provided the most detailed picture then available of the social geography of Alliance support. Matched against the final seat

allocation, it shows that the Liberals had indeed walked off with the best slice of constituencies with a high previous Liberal vote. But the SDP had the larger slice of seats in which Crewe's figures suggested there was an above average chance of an improvement on past Liberal performance.

Currie and Steel also suggest that when the results come through, the allocation may not turn out to have been all that important in determining the balance of power in a future Alliance parliamentary party. They say that the geographical spread of the Alliance vote and the relative strengths of the major parties will have more influence on the numbers than the negotiations.

Their calculations suggest that the larger the national Conservative lead over Labour, the fewer seats the Alliance will win if their overall vote is anywhere within the expected range. They conclude: "The more the Alliance vote is simply the Liberal vote at a higher level, the more likely is a Liberal lead in seats. The closer the Alliance vote comes to the sort of pattern shown in the 1981 opinion polls, the more likely it is that the SDP's disproportionate share of certain types of constituency will guarantee it parity."

Turning dreams into reality: the division of constituencies between the Liberals and Social Democrats, by John Currie and Michael Steel, is published in Parliamentary Affairs

Teddy Taylor

Pastures new for the rates man

The story of agricultural derating is a very strange one. It is clear that no government of any party would choose to reverse the arrangement whereby agriculture alone among British industries makes no contribution whatsoever to the costs of local government, but what is not so clear is why the rest of industry and commerce is unwilling to use the agricultural exemption as a means of pressing government to reform the rating system, which is undoubtedly harsh and inequitable and is driving many firms towards bankruptcy.

Agricultural derating was introduced in 1929 as a modest gesture to alleviate appalling agricultural depression at a time when no other means of support was available. Rates at that time were a modest burden, but since then rates have soared and the structure of agriculture has been revolutionized.

But far from reducing the concession, Parliament in 1971 extended the definition of agricultural buildings so that the concession now also applies to what are loosely referred to as factory farm operations (like chicken battery systems) as well as to buildings used by farm syndicates and cooperatives. Soon after that, case law extended the exemption to fish farming as well.

The cash involved in the concession is now very substantial indeed. The official estimate is that rateable values of around £200m are involved and that the cash loss to local authorities is in the region of £250m.

The continuance of the anomaly is puzzling in view of the repeated calls for change. The Layfield Royal Commission of 1976, for example, stated that there was "no good reason why agricultural derating should continue. Even the recent all-party select committee, which was primarily concerned with domestic rates, went out of its way to call for further study."

Some of the reasons advanced by governments for retaining the status quo have been illogical to say the least. The last Labour government argued that to rate agriculture would involve substantial time and expense in deploying valuation officers. A strange argument indeed, when we consider that there is no shortage of resources in employing armies of valuation officers to chase round private dwellings to assess sums of between £5 and £20 to valuations to take account of minor improvements or modifications.

So agricultural derating is as secure as the monarchy. Yet the rest of British industry has been reluctant to use the agricultural anomaly as an argument against its own intolerable rates burden. Industry and commerce have to bear more

than a half of the entire rating burden without having any say over the amount raised or any control over the way the money is spent.

Few can deny that rates act against the principle of regional development because there are numerous examples of high rates being levied in areas suffering from above-average unemployment. Nor do rates for industry have any regard to ability to pay - there is no rebate system in industry and commerce.

But the agricultural exemption opens up a whole new field of argument. Our main industries are protected from foreign competition by very modest import duties ranging from nil to about 10 per cent. But agriculture enjoys massive tariff protection: CAP guaranteed prices, on average, are about twice the world level. In the case of sugar, the current import levy is about 200 per cent.

Most industries have to fight with tenacity for a market for their products at home and abroad and there is no guaranteed level of sales. But in the case of agriculture, with the exception of quota limitations on commodities like sugar there is a firm and costly guarantee that all items produced will be purchased through intervention. If the products cannot then be sold, they are disposed of at knockdown prices in the Third World or in the Soviet Union - the current daily cost of such subsidies for the EEC as a whole is £7m per day. In the case of perishable products in horticulture, the central purchasers destroy the products if there is not a market for them.

Industry enjoys only a limited amount of government investment or other aid, and much of this is concentrated in development or special development areas. By comparison, there is a wide range of special aids for agriculture throughout the nation.

So why should industry and commerce not enjoy the same rating privileges as agriculture?

The simple way to achieve this would be for the share of rate-contributed by industry and commerce to be raised through national taxation; it would mean, of course, higher national tax levels, but at least the cash would be raised in a fairer way.

The injustices of rating have carried on for too long. They are crippling a major slice of industry and commerce. And it seems at least reasonable that our factories and shops should be offered the same privileges as have been enjoyed by agriculture, one of Britain's most protected and prosperous industries.

The author is Conservative MP for Southend, East.

James Curran

Putting BL and Britain back on the road

The dispute at British Leyland's Cowley plant reveals a tough, old fashioned management at work. It was triggered by the unions' decision to withdraw the "winding time" Cowley workers have had for 40 years without offer of financial compensation. This was the culmination of a series of authoritarian measures in which "wets" were weeded out from management and a leading shop steward sacked, ostensibly for co-authoring a pamphlet that argued against management plans. Since 1980, shop-floor participation in decision-making at BL has been pared down to an insulting and provocative minimum.

The angry response of Cowley workers to the management's ultimatum on washing time reflects the accumulation of pent-up anger and frustration that has turned even the exceedingly moderate and conciliatory local union leader, David Buckle, into an angry militant. It also reflects the sharp increase in demand for BL's cars which, if sustained, is likely to encourage BL's workforce to try to turn the tables on management from a position of greater bargaining strength.

This Indian-style management style of industrial relations is undermining the British economy. A succession of comparative studies - the latest being that of Dr Sig Prais - shows that output per worker in manufacturing industry in Britain is between 20 per cent and 30 per cent below that in France and West Germany, and even lower by comparison with the United States.

This is not simply the consequence of backward technology, and the historically low level of investment in British industry. Output per worker with comparable plant and equipment is generally lower in Britain than in other developed industrial economies. A major cause of Britain's poor performance is, therefore, the way in which work is organized and performed.

The government's response to this problem has been to assist management to impose decisions on their employees by undermining in a variety of ways the position of trade unions. The evidence suggests that this strategy has not succeeded in increasing efficiency relative to our trading rivals. According to government statistics, output per person hour in manufacturing industry has increased by only 3.9 per cent since this government was elected, compared with 9.7 per cent during the corresponding period of time that preceded it. While the disappointing performance under this government is partly attributable to the cyclical movement in output, there is no empirical justification for believing that there has been any kind of breakthrough in productivity.

Since previous administrations have also not been very successful in promoting greater industrial efficiency, it is worth considering a new approach. The need for fresh thinking is underlined by the wealth

of academic evidence, thoughtfully reviewed by Geoffrey Hodgson in the *Cambridge Journal of Economics* (1982) which shows that workforce participation in decision-making generally increases productivity.

The new social contract unveiled last month by the TUC and the Labour Party in its joint manifesto, *Partners in Rebuilding Britain*, was examined by the media largely in terms of what it said about an incomes policy. This explains why the most interesting thing about it - the fact that it represents an historic shift away from state socialism to decentralized economic democracy - was largely overlooked. Whereas previous Labour governments have seen economic planning largely as a centralized state activity, Labour's new programme would give ordinary people a say at every level of decision-making in the economy.

In the first place, it would give workers guaranteed access to company information usually denied them, the right to be consulted on key decisions and the right to be represented through trade unions at all levels of the management hierarchy, including a 50 per cent representation of the board of directors of large companies. This proposed revolution in industrial relations would be gradual one in that it would be based on existing union and management structures and would be developed at the pace desired by the workforce of different companies.

This workers' charter at company level is part of a wider power-sharing plan in which a new ministry and a national planning council (a body set up by the government) would be responsible for coordinating development plans for major companies, industries and the economy as a whole between government, management and unions. In this way workers and management representatives from the grass roots upwards would be involved in taking major strategic decisions, over output, incomes, investment, prices and profits in a process of negotiation that expanded the normal agenda of collective bargaining.

These new proposals have been attacked by some right-wing Labour MPs who are committed to old-style state planning, and by some left-wing unionists who fear they lead to the incorporation of militants into the capitalist process and introduce a conventional income policy through the back door. But the new proposals enjoy the new widespread support among both the left and the right in the Labour movement.

Those who reject this programme on the grounds that it would give the unions more power are, merely giving vent to the visceral antagonisms that now shape the disastrous industrial relations at BL.

The author is Editor of New Socialist.



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THE WAGES OF FUDGE

The heavyweights of the trade union movement have been doing some arm-twisting to good effect at the Scottish TUC conference. It is now generally accepted that the conference will vote against the idea of wage restraint under this or any other government. But nothing will be done at Rothsay to cast a shadow over the proposal for a National Economic Assessment that was put forward in the policy statement, *Partners in Rebuilding Britain*, published last month by the TUC-Labour Party Liaison Committee.

The arm-twisting was necessary because the Scottish TUC is traditionally a left-wing stronghold and the statement has been seen as providing the embryo of an incomes policy, which is anathema to the left. Without a little pressure from the right there would in all probability have been some dispute over the statement at Rothsay. The British trade union leaders, however, believe that it is critical to preserve the credibility of the assessment proposal in its run-up to an election. The difficulties north of the border this week have a wider significance for the Labour movement.

How far it is right to interpret the document as the first step to another incomes policy is debatable. It certainly provides a basis upon which an incomes policy could subsequently be constructed, but it does not itself provide for such a policy. It could just as easily be regarded as an innocuous form of words designed to create the illusion that there would not be a wage explosion under a Labour government.

The document proposes that there should be a regular National Economic Assessment, drawn up by representatives of the government and both sides of industry, which would produce "an agreed statement on the framework within which decisions will be made on investment, prices, employment and pay". It goes on to say that "this will mean that bargaining can take place in an atmosphere of wider recognition of what is needed for national economic success".

It might be that in such an atmosphere there would be agreement on the need for national guidelines or norms on pay; but then there might not. Nothing that Mr Foot said when launching the document suggested that there would be. It might be that in such an atmosphere of collective responsibility there would be a general recognition of the need for a somewhat less precise form of pay restraint. That would certainly be the hope of the Labour ministers; but it would be no more than a hope. Whether it was realized would depend upon the attitude of trade union leaders at the time

and their ability to carry their own members with them in any degree of restraint that they thought desirable.

Under a Labour government a deliberate policy of wage restraint would be more necessary than it is now because some of the other disciplines would be removed. The principal reason why the unions have come to accept a much lower level of pay increases has been fear of unemployment. Whoever is in office over the next few years, unemployment is likely to remain disturbingly high. But whereas the present Government has pursued tight fiscal and monetary policies, a Labour administration would indulge in massive reflation.

This would be inflationary, even if wages were kept under control. Yet such official liberality might well seem a positive invitation to a wage explosion. In such circumstances, Labour ministers would no doubt soon be calling for restraint, but these would be conditions in which it would be harder for union leaders, whatever their own personal assessments, to persuade their members to respond. So, while the left may reasonably fear that Labour economic strategy would lead to renewed calls for an incomes policy, the rest of us would have more reason to be afraid of the return of inflation.

forces withdraw. Because it has this clearly defined mission, and above all because it is there by invitation of the Lebanese government, the multinational force is not itself a "foreign" force in this sense.

"Foreign forces" means those which, whatever their original pretext for being in Lebanon, have now clearly outstayed their welcome: Palestinian forces, Syrian forces and Israeli forces in particular. Iranian forces now deserve mention as well, although they are not there in sufficient strength to mount an independent challenge to Lebanese authority. They are there by courtesy of the Syrians, and since last August, the same could be said of the Palestinian forces. Syria and Israel are the effective occupying powers. If the multinational force leaves before they do it will not have fulfilled its mandate.

America reacted very properly to the attack on her embassy by attending yesterday's session of the Israeli-Lebanese withdrawal talks at Khalde. Of course there must be a reaction on the technical security level as well. But the only appropriate political reaction is to maintain, and if possible increase, the pressure for a withdrawal of foreign forces.

The multinational force is there as an earnest of that commitment to help raise the Lebanese security forces to the level required and to maintain security for civilians in the area of Lebanon from which foreign

widespread among governments.

There has been little real "tit-for-tat" in the recent cycle of East-West expulsions. France and Britain expelled Soviet agents posing as diplomats and journalists; the USSR has expelled an air attaché and a journalist doing no more than pursuing their normal duties. Of course, a perceptive journalist such as Mr Anthony Robinson of the *Financial Times* sending sound information and analysis on the realities of life in the USSR is always at risk of expulsion for what the authorities term "impermissible activities".

The subsequent removal from Britain of a Third Secretary at the Soviet Embassy who was not accused of spying was retaliation of a sort. But a firm response is the only sure way of making the Soviet leaders understand that they have gone too far in promoting the free flow of British secrets. The Soviet withdrawal of a visa to visit the USSR this week from Lord Bethell, the Conservative MEP well known for his condemnation of the Soviet record on human rights, is a different matter. Here too the emphasis is on suppressing human contacts between East and West Europe. Meanwhile, in the USSR dozens of members of the Helsinki monitoring groups are serving long prison sentences for publicizing violations of the CSCE by their government. There is still much to be discussed at Madrid.

have the twofold advantage of allowing more competitive matches and at the same time ensure that skills were developed with the added time available.

Yours faithfully,
CONRAD FREE,
Woodville,
Lea,
Malmesbury,
Wiltshire,
April 12.

County ups and downs

From Mr Conrad Free

Sir, I read with interest the article by your cricket correspondent (April 12) and would like to add not only my support for four-day championship matches, but an extra dimension to the debate.

Many championship matches are rendered meaningless due to the fact that only a limited number of

counties are ever in contention for the championship.

Very simply, I would admit one more county to the championship and divide it into two divisions, each of nine teams. Each team would play the other teams in its division on a home and away basis, with two sides being promoted and relegated each season.

Each county would thus play 16 four-day county games under this system which would, in my opinion,

allowing more competitive matches and at the same time ensure that skills were developed with the added time available.

Yours faithfully,
CONRAD FREE,
Woodville,
Lea,
Malmesbury,
Wiltshire,
April 12.

BL lessons still to be learned

From Mr G. H. B. Cattell

Sir, It is almost 10 years (June 13, 1973) since you published my letter on production-line monotony in the car industry. Judging by the present outbreaks of unrest in the motor industry we have still much to learn about the art of managing people employed on work which most of us would find not merely monotonous but intolerable, without personal commitment to the objectives and participation in the rewards of achievement.

The management of BL must be right in striving for the elimination of working practices which raise unit labour costs above those of their competitors. Management objectives and strategy cannot be questioned if profit is the purpose, as it must be. It is surely management tactics which have led to the present impasse.

Sir Michael Edwards has come and gone, after considerable achievement but without leaving much evidence of that style of management which can achieve the desired results, whatever the social and economic conditions. That is a management approach which rests ultimately on the consent of the management, not on the consent or approval of the trade union officials.

The principal function of a trade union is to offer its members protection against exploitation by employers. Trade union officials are dependent on a substantial membership. The appeal of union membership is greatest where employees fear exploitation, or where they do not feel identified with the purpose of the enterprise and involved in its aims and progress.

The present confrontation is between management and unions. The solution is to be found in cooperation between management

and other employees; in today's jargon, through employee participation and involvement.

The principal shareholder in BL is now the state. The taxpayer therefore has the right to ask whether his investment is in the hands of managers sensitive enough and skilful enough to obtain an acceptable return on that investment. The massive loss of production in the last few weeks must put that in question. It will now take many months of working shifts, without the three minutes washing-up time allowance, to restore output to the level it would have reached without this dispute.

The key to employee participation and involvement is employee interest. If Britain is to have a competitive car industry the competing firms must have shareholders and managers able to interest employees in the company's performance against foreign competitors. Consent to change in working practices is much more likely from people involved in the purpose of the enterprise, and people who know they will participate in its success. Neither confrontation nor cooperation between management and trade union officials will secure the future of BL. Whatever the outcome of the dialogue between senior management and trade union representatives, the issue will turn on whether or not the majority of the people in BL believe that the success of the company will bring reward for them. It must surely be time to involve managers and managers as shareholders.

Yours faithfully,
G. H. B. CATTELL,
Little Chenevay,
Yalding,
Kent,
April 18.

Venereal disease

From Dr John Seale

Sir, There is a new VD epidemic? London Weekend Television (April 8) said it is almost out of control in London, where nearly half the 500,000 new cases per year in England are treated.

According to the Chief Medical Officer of the DHSS in his annual report, *On the State of the Public Health*, "the number of new attendances at the (VD) clinics has been increasing since the early 1950s and in 1980 there were for the first time more than 500,000 new cases" (p.50 and 52).

The tables in the annual report (p.53) show that the number of new cases was 458,979 and not in excess of "half a million" as the Chief Medical Officer wrote in the text (p.53). Furthermore, the DHSS has taken a "new attendance" to be synonymous with a "new case". A case, however, is not a person. If a person attends the clinic on one occasion only with thrush, a wart and a crab louse the DHSS classifies this as three new cases and also, surprisingly, as three new attendances.

The resulting double-counting in individual clinics averages 30 per cent (*British Journal of Venereal Disease*, 1981, 57, 285). The 459,000 new cases represented 353,000 new persons attending clinics; 107,123 were cases of a sexually transmitted disease called "other conditions not

requiring treatment in a centre", which is "bureaucratic" for no sexually transmitted disease.

These new cases were physically healthy but often terrified people visiting the clinic for reassurance or as contacts of other patients.

Ten thousand and forty three cases had genital herpes, a virus infection similar to labial herpes (cold sores) but, because of media-induced anxiety, now a common cause of intense distress, marital disharmony and sometimes death by suicidal depression.

The only two diseases which can be correctly categorised as VD, because of their mode of transmission and their disastrous effects if untreated, are gonorrhoea and syphilis. There is no new epidemic of these diseases.

In 1980 there were 54,433 new cases of gonorrhoea, a decrease of 1,000 on 1971, and fewer than in the early 1940s. In 1980 there were 4,059 new cases of syphilis, an increase of 1,000 over 1971, but less than one fifth of the 1940s figure. The incidence of VD in the UK has remained remarkably constant over the last decade and is less than it was 40 years ago.

The new VD epidemic is a myth. But the fear of VD is not; and fear itself can be deadly.

Yours truly,
JOHN SEALE,
78 Harley Street, NW1,
April 13.

Aid to Third World

From the Directors of Christian Aid and the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development

Sir, Professors Bauer and Yamey say (April 11) that aid cannot significantly promote Third World development and does not relieve poverty in the Third World. May we take issue with both of those statements?

What do Bauer and Yamey mean by "aid"? If they mean that the volume of aid from all sources is insignificant by comparison with the need for it then few would cavil at their statement. But this does not seem to be what they want to argue. Rather, they seem to argue that because some resources are misdirected and because some countries have been able to achieve high rates of growth without large aid flows it follows that "aid cannot significantly promote development".

The conclusion simply doesn't follow from the argument. Where domestic savings and/or foreign exchange are the major constraint on economic growth (which Bauer and Yamey evidently equate with development) then the provision of the resources to breach this bottleneck will - and historically have - increase the rate of economic growth.

Bauer and Yamey dispute the power of donors to "effectively question the economic policies and

general conduct of the governments receiving aid". Having taken part in those discussions from both sides of the table we can only say that that is simply not true. So far from conditionality being politically "taboo" bilateral and multilateral donors are, in fact, able to change economic policies. Agricultural pricing policies in Zambia and the subsidies paid to nationalised industries in Sri Lanka are both well known, well documented cases. Why do Bauer and Yamey want to dismiss them?

That too much official aid has not had an immediate effect on the very poorest people in developing countries is something that we would condemn as readily as Bauer and Yamey. But that is an argument about the quality of aid, not about the fact of aid. It is also a more complicated argument about the distributional impact of marginal expenditures about which generalisation is exceedingly difficult. One might reasonably expect two professors of the LSE to acknowledge both the complexity of the issue and the ambiguity of the evidence.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES ELLIOTT, Director,
Christian Aid,
JULIAN FILOCHOWSKI, Director,
Catholic Fund for Overseas Development,
PO Box No 1, SW9.

Saluting New York

From the Director General of The British Council

Sir, In fairness to the British taxpayer and to the British Council I must point out an error in Christopher Thomas's article on "Britain salutes New York" (*Spectrum*, April 13).

Enormous credit is due to Mr Lloyd-Jacob and private enterprise for raising between £3m and £4m to mount this arts festival, but unfortunately Mr Thomas is incorrect in stating that not a penny has come from the taxpayers of Britain.

The British Council, on behalf of the British taxpayer, has contributed

£80,000 to the festival to help ensure that it is truly representative of British art today. Without this modest input some of Britain's more adventurous contemporary arts, which are less attractive to business sponsors, would not have been represented.

British Council support has ensured the appearance of the London Contemporary Dance Theatre, the Fires of London, the Actors Touring Company, the Joint Stock Theatre Company, the Mike

Westbrook Orchestra, the Stan Tynes Quartet and a variety of contemporary art and craft exhibitions. They will reflect lively, humorous and creative aspects of British art.

In addition the British Council has subsidised the Henry Moore exhibition and its financial support for foreign tours by both the Royal Ballet and the London Symphony Orchestra has ensured their presence in New York.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN BURGH, Director General,
The British Council,
10 Spring Gardens, SW1,
April 13.

War widows' visits

From Mr D. T. Downer

Sir, The cost of transporting war widows to other foreign lands is a considerable cost of the 1939 war and should be met at once, although 30 years late, whilst there are people who wish to go.

Yours faithfully,
D. T. DOWNER,
13-14 Little Britain, EC1,
April 17.

Lack of reserve in the Armed Forces

From Mr K. D. Jamieson

Sir, Your second leader ("Uniform opportunities," April 15) makes the important point that, compared with other Nato countries, Britain's Armed Forces lack reserves to back them up. You express the hope that the young people lucky enough to get a place in Mr Heseltine's new scheme could, although only half-trained, form the basis of a reserve force in depth.

If war should come the main requirement for a large body of people with some, but not professional, military training is likely to be in supplementing the defence of Britain's home base. There thus seems to be a link between Mr Heseltine's scheme and the imaginative proposals recently advanced by Lord Hill-Norton and others for the creation of a volunteer part-time Home Defence Force. Those who have had their year's training would be the natural cadres, if they so wished, for this new force.

It is not enough to "respond to a national call to arms" once battle has been joined. To be effective - and to have any deterrent effect - home defence has to be organized in advance. The logical next step for the Government, therefore, is to build on their present scheme by implementing the Defence Begins at Home proposals on a pilot-scheme basis.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH JAMIESON,
Mill Hill House,
Bucks Green,
Rugby,
West Sussex,
April 15.

From Mr Garry A. Eitle

Sir, I am saddened by the enthusiasm of your leader (April 15) for the Government's proposed military service opportunity for the young unemployed.

The problem of youth unemployment which gave rise to this idea demands sincere and urgent attention without any doubt. However, is the non-military sector of our

society so bereft of opportunity now that military training, however augmented, is seen as yet another hole into which we can place this embarrassing, wasted generation out of sight?

I am willing to believe that there is some sincerity behind this proposal, but I also suspect that its relative economy played an equal part, not to mention the consistency such an idea shows, "character-building" as it may be, with Mrs Thatcher's yearnings for Victorian values.

It is, I believe, a reflection on a Britain which now depends heavily on a defence industry favoured to the detriment of the civil sector. We have also won a "war", and for some the elation has overshadowed the grief.

These are all factors which feed militarism and to offer military training to our young unemployed is in keeping with such a society.

The real question is, when this generation of young people has passed through this new scheme, will they have any more chance of utilising any trades they have learnt? Or will they follow the thousands from other such schemes and be left with only their disillusionment?

Of course they will also know how to use a gun; but who will the enemy be?

Yours sincerely,
G. A. EITLE,
6 Greenore Street,
Belfast,
April 15.

From Dr Margaret E. Wood

Sir, We are concerned about the increasing number of criminals who carry arms, yet we are proposing to train annually 5,000 unemployed young men and women in the use of weapons and then release them on the community after a year.

Yours etc,
MARGARET E. WOOD,
11 Roundwood Drive,
Welwyn Garden City,
Hertfordshire,
April 19.

Politics and CABs

From Mr John Ross

Sir, I am the "local chairman" referred to by Gerard Vaughan when he told the House of Commons (Parliamentary Report, April 13) about his measures to control the National Citizens' Advice Bureau. He mentioned me because I had resigned my chairmanship over the increasingly political stance of the central organization of the CAB.

Since then some leading lights in the CAB have accused me of "slandering" the organization. I wish to repudiate this allegation.

Like thousands of other volunteers I have worked in CAB for very many years and two members of my family were paid workers of the agency in London. I would hate to see the organization smeared or denigrated.

My criticism is limited and very specific. It is made to help and not to undermine the CAB. Workers at the local level are devoted and excellent and, judging by what many of my colleagues say, this specialty

includes Joan Ruddock, whose name, mysteriously, has become connected with this business.

It is the group of people who run the Greater London and the national level who are diluting the function. I do not doubt that they are sincere in their belief that many problems brought to the CAB might be mitigated by legislative changes. Furthermore, I believe that if they identify such needs it is proper that they should draw attention to them. But if they want to campaign for them they should take off their CAB hats and instead don party rosettes or pressure-group badges.

There are many vehicles for political evangelism. CAB should not become yet another one. It has other, more delicate functions and I believe they should be paramount; chief among them is the direct dedication to the client, which is what I believe CAB is all about.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ROSS,
7 Overhill Road,
Purley, Surrey,
April 16.

Message of 'Gandhi'

From Lady Stansgate

Sir, The distinguished film *Gandhi*, with the awards and the discussions following on the relations of Britain with India, reminds me of a relevant conversation at which I was present many years ago in Delhi.

Mr Speaker Mavalanka of the Indian Parliament and my husband, who as William Wedgwood Benn had been Secretary of State for India from 1929-1931, were discussing with hindsight the early years of the civil disobedience campaign. My husband spoke of the distaste and reluctance with which the Labour Government of that day had imprisoned the Mahatma and countless numbers of his supporters in the necessary interests of public order, while they themselves unsparingly supported the ultimate aims of Congress for self-government. When he spoke of this attitude as one widely shared here at home, Mr Mavalanka declared it had been at the heart of the whole matter.

I quote his generous words: "Gandhi was inseparable from the British. A dictator would have crushed him at the outset".

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET STANSGATE,
10 North Court,
Great Peter Street, SW1,
April 13.

ILEA budget

From Mrs Frances Morrell

Sir, David Walker gives a singularly misleading account of the Inner London Education Authority's budget in his article on April 12.

In claiming that there are more staff but fewer pupils he mentions the fall in school rolls, but fails to take account of the fact that ILEA is not just a school authority but also has to provide help for the increasing number of older teenagers for whom education offers an alternative to unemployment. In further and higher education ILEA provides a regional service for the whole South-east and we are planning to serve several thousand more further education and adult education students next year.

He also fails to mention something which was spelt out clearly in inner Londoners in the ILEA

education inspectors: "The ILEA is faced with a combination of problems to an extent probably unmatched elsewhere in England and Wales".

In fact the authority's vigorous response to challenges, such as these - overcrowding, poverty, a high proportion of children whose first language is not English and children from one-parent families - is costing ratepayers about one extra penny on the rate precept.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCES MORRELL,
Deputy Leader, ILEA,
The County Hall, SE1.

Christians and Jews

From Mr Jacob Freund

Sir, For clarity's sake, there was a touch of anachronism in your otherwise excellent leader ("Jesus was a Jew," April 2) in applying a modern, essentially secular term, based on racial discrimination, namely antisemitism, to anti-Jewish attitudes and deeds instigated by the Church through the centuries.

Deplorable as it may be, the Christian anti-Jewish dogma presupposed the humanity of the Jew by encouraging him to convert, that is, rejecting, as it were, his faith only.

Antisemitism, whether that of Christians or others, assumes an inherent difference or inferiority in the Jew which cannot be altered.

Yours faithfully,
JACOB FREUND,
Yarnon Manor,
Yarnon, Oxfordshire.

Voices off

From Mr W. G. Hodgkinson

Sir, If Mr Alan Tiffin's prediction of the loss of public telephones under private ownership, published in today's issue (report, April 13), turned out to be true, the effect in London anyway would be scarcely perceptible.

As every would-be user knows, many of the kiosks are so well hidden as barely to qualify for the description of "public", and when found it must be better than an even bet that the equipment will be found to be out of order. As to the annual loss, even a fruit-machine unable to accept coins from willing customers would lose money.

Compare this disaster area, for it is nothing less, with the States, where the privately run system provides its customers most liberally with kiosks which are not only visible, but can generally be relied upon to contain equipment which works, and it is clear that Mr Tiffin has picked the poorest of bases on which to attack the concept of privatization.

Yours faithfully,
W. G. HODGKINSON,
38c Marylebone High Street, W1.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 19: The Queen, with The Duke of Edinburgh (Colonel), Grenadier Guards, this morning inspected The Queen's Company of the Grenadier Guards, under the command of Major Evelyn Webb-Carter, in the Quadrangle of Windsor Castle.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received by the Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding the Regiment (Colonel Andrew Duncan) and the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion (Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Hervey).

Lady Susan Hussey, Mr Robert Fellowes and Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Johnston were in attendance.

His Excellency the Dominica Ambassador, His Excellency the New Zealand High Commissioner and Mrs Young, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Mrs Prior, Sir Robert and Lady Armstrong, Sir Charles and Lady Troughton, the Right Reverend Victor Guzzardi, Mr John and Lady Anne Boles and Dr and Mrs John Ashworth have arrived at Windsor Castle.

Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded the Hon Mrs Morrison as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 19: The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, Patron of the Riding for the Disabled Association, this morning opened the Elizabeth Curran Centre for Disabled Riders at Bromham Hospital, Bromham, Bedfordshire.

Forthcoming marriages
Mr C. L. L. Glass and Miss L. J. Hamilton

The engagement is announced between Luke, son of Sir Leslie Glass, of Livingston, Herefordshire, and Mrs Pamela Hoyer Miller, of Monrovia, Angus, Scotland, and Leonie, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Dundas Hamilton, of Kensington, London, W8.

Mr P. J. Chantler and Miss B. R. Daly

The engagement is announced between Philip John, son of Mr Raymond Chantler and the late Mrs Novello Chantler, and Bridget Julia, daughter of Lady Daly of Winchester, and the late Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Clive Daly, CSI, CIE.

Mr J. W. Baker and Miss L. S. M. Jones

The engagement is announced between Jeffrey, only son of Mr and Mrs W. V. Baker, of Fishponds, Bristol, and Lesley, daughter of the late Eric Milne Jones, of Wrexham, Cheshire, and of Mrs L. M. Boley, of Bristol, Devon.

Mr S. H. E. Bennett and Miss M. A. Lister

The engagement is announced between Simon, only son of Mr Anthony Bennett, of Barnes, London, and Mrs Margaret Hale, of Newcastle, and Melissa, only daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs S. G. Lister, of Seale, Surrey.

Mr J. C. Bertram and Miss L. R. Schofield

The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Hans Bertram, of West Germany, and Linda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Schofield, of Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and Buxton, Derbyshire.

Mr D. R. Barrill and Miss S. Dennis

The engagement is announced between Donald, son of Mrs Clara Barrill, of New Westminster, British Columbia, Canada, and Sally, daughter of Mr and Mrs H. L. Dennis, of Croydon, Surrey.

Mr C. E. Davenport and Miss D. J. Detering

The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs P. A. R. Davenport, of Brixton, Surrey, and Diana, second daughter of Mr and Mrs G. W. Detering, of The White House, Alby, Norfolk.

Mr D. J. A. Elliot and Miss L. Franchini

The engagement is announced between David, younger son of Mr and Mrs P. A. H. Elliot, of Chesham, Bucks, and Lisa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Reginald Franchini, of Avon, Connecticut, United States.

Dr D. Forsythe and Miss C. Gibbins

The marriage of David Forsythe and Catherine Gibbins will take place in Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London, on Saturday, April 23, at 1.00 pm.

Mr C. T. L. Foster and Miss C. A. MacLean

The engagement is announced between Toby, second son of Mr and Mrs Michael Foster, of Richmond, Surrey, and Carol, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Ronald MacLean, of Epsom, Surrey.

Mr J. D. K. Grant and Miss A. M. Lindvall

The engagement is announced between John, elder son of Sheriff and Mrs Douglas Grant, of Drumlanrig, Maybole, Ayrshire, and Anna, elder daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Per Lindvall, of Stockholm, Sweden.

Mr R. Hedges and Miss F. M. Christy

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs W. Hudson, of Badliis Hall, Ayrshire, and Philippa, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. D. Christy, of The Watch House, Dedham, Essex.

Mr I. D. Kelton and Miss K. A. Davis

The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Mr and Mrs Donald Kelton, of Pinner, Middlesex, and Rachel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Owen Gifford Davis, of Mayfield, Ellfield, Hampshire.

Mr R. Zaitouk-Williams and Miss L. Douglas

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mrs Prue Zaitouk-Williams, of Altham, Chateaufort de Grasse, France, and the late Mr Gabriel Zaitouk-Williams, and Jane, elder daughter of Mrs David Douglas, and the late Captain David Douglas, of Holbrook House, Heathfield, Sussex.

Her Royal Highness travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Bedfordshire (Lieutenant-Colonel Hamner Hanbury).

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, Chancellor of the University of London, this afternoon opened the Lady David Gallery of the Pervin David Foundation, at the School of Oriental and African Studies, Malet Street, WC1.

Her Royal Highness was received on arrival by the Vice-Chancellor of the University (Professor Randolph Quirk).

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, was present at a charity evening of greyhound racing in aid of the Leukemia Research Fund at the Chelsea Racecourse, Chelsea, London, where Her Royal Highness was received by the Chairman of the Greyhound Racing Association (Mr E. J. Aaronsen) and the Chairman of the Fund (Viscount Chelmsford).

Miss Victoria Legge-Bourke was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
April 19: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon unveiled the Foundation Plaque of the Clare Gallery for the Turner Collection at the Tate Gallery.

Lady Elizabeth Basset and Sir Martin Gilliat were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 19: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Sandwich, this afternoon was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Merseyside (Wing Commander K. Stoddart).

Her Royal Highness visited the Workshops and Training School of Gostin of Liverpool Limited this afternoon.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PLACE
April 19: The Duke of Kent, Chairman of the National Electronics Council, this morning visited the All-Electronics Show of the Electronics Components Industry Federation at the Barbican Centre and was later entertained to lunch at Smeaton's Vaults, Chiswell Street. His Royal Highness subsequently took the chair at the General Committee Meeting of the National Electronics Council.

Captain John Stewart was in attendance.

A memorial service for Viscount Broadford will be held today at St Lawrence Jewry near Guildhall, at 12.30.

A memorial service for Viscount Head, of Thrope, will be held in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, on Tuesday, May 10, at noon.

Two bishops appointed
The Rev Gordon Bates, Canon Residentiary and Precentor of Liverpool Cathedral, has been appointed Suffragan Bishop of Whitby, in succession to the Right Rev Clifford Conder Barker, who is to be Suffragan Bishop of Selby.

The Rev Peter James Frith, senior producer, religious programmes, and religious broadcaster for the BBC, west region, has been appointed Suffragan Bishop of Malmesbury, in succession to the Right Rev Frederick Stephen Temple, who will be resigning on October 15.

Birthdays today
The Right Rev P. C. Darwent, 56; the Rev John G. Davies, 64; Major-General Sir Charles Dunlop, 81; Sir Arnold Francis, 72; Sir Solomon Hochoy, 78; Mr Eddie Kulikowski, 51; Mr Leslie Phillips, 59; Sir Hilton Foynt, 78; Professor G. O. Sayles, 82; Sir William Stewart, 62; Air Marshal Sir Richard Wakeford, 61; Mr Henry Wong, 52.

Latest wills
Latest estates include (net, before tax paid): Bayford, Mr Richard Hayter, of Pangbourne, Berkshire, £306,782; Nicholls, Mr Arthur James Patrick, of Cambridge, Gloucestershire, £436,538.

Bristol Grammar School
Term began yesterday Tuesday, April 19. Samuel Wells is head of school. Fiona Whelan second prefect. The 40th Anniversary Development Appeal stands at £505,000. The Midsummer Fair, in aid of the appeal, will be held in Tyndals Park on Saturday afternoon, July 2.

Cobham Hall School
Cobham Hall School's Summer term begins today. Kate Pelham Burr is the guardian and weekend will be held on the weekend of June 26 and 27, 1983.

Girls' Public Day School Trust
Summer Term for the 24 schools of the Girls' Public Day School Trust will begin this week, half-term will be in the week beginning May 30. New buildings at Sheffield will be opened by Lady Johnston, chairman of the trust, on July 18.

Marriages
Captain M. A. T. Hibbert-Hingston and Miss L. J. B. Armitage

The marriage took place on Saturday, April 16, at the Parish Church of All Saints, Staphenbury, between Captain M. A. T. Hibbert-Hingston and Miss Lucinda Armitage, assisted by Father Giles Hibbert and Canon H. Sutton. A reception was held at the home of the bride.

Mr J. C. Hoppe and Miss C. Lankester

The marriage took place in London on Tuesday, April 12, of Mr John Hoppe, son of the Rev J. L. Hoppe, of Kansas City, Missouri, United States, and Miss Christina Louise Lankester, daughter of Captain and Mrs P. K. R. Lankester, of Wimbledon, London.

Mr M. J. Isaac and Miss J. E. Clarendon

The marriage took place on April 16, in Hampshire, between Mr M. J. Isaac and Miss J. E. Clarendon.

Mr J. P. Marland and Miss P. M. Lamb

The marriage took place on Saturday, April 16, at All Saints Church, Wardour Castle, between Mr Jonathan Marland, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Marland, and Miss Penelope Lamb, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Lamb. Don Hilary Stewart officiated, assisted by Father J. Trummer and the Rev A. L. Burrell.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Rebecca Marland, Miss Daisy Monahan, Lady Frances Armstrong-Jones and Paul Addison. Mr Graham Riddick was best man.

A reception was held at the bride's home and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Luncheon
Law Society

The President of the Law Society, Mr Max Williams, was host at a luncheon at 60 Carey Street yesterday. Among those present were:

Lord Hailsham of Owlton, QC, Sir Kenneth Williams, Mr P. A. S. Smith, Mr C. H. H. Williams, Mr Brian Asquith and Mr J. L. Balfour.

Receptions
British Digestive Foundation

Princess Michael of Kent, Patron of the British Digestive Foundation, was present at a reception held last night at Lettison House, Sir Francis Atterley Jones, president, received the guests.

Mitchell Prize for the History of Art
Princess Michael of Kent was present at a reception held on Monday evening at the Royal Academy for the presentation of the

Dinners
Royal Society of Medicine

Sir James Watt, president, presided at a dinner for members of council of the Royal Society of Medicine held yesterday at 1 Wimpole Street. The guest speaker was Mr Leonard Boden. Among those present were Lord and Lady Smith, Sir John and Lady Deane, Sir John Stallworthy and Sir Gordon and Lady Wolstenholme.

Reform Club
The economics group of the Reform Club held a dinner last night. Mr Douglas Lambias was in the chair, and the speaker was Professor Rodney Smith.

Society of Apothecaries of London
Dr T. D. Whitler, Master of the Society of Apothecaries of London, assisted by Professor Sir Peter Tizard, Senior Warden, and Professor Norman Ashton, Junior Warden, gave a dinner last night at Apocrypha Hall. Among those present were:

Lord Canning, Lord Pym, Dr. Sir Kenneth Williams, Mr P. A. S. Smith, Mr C. H. H. Williams, Mr Brian Asquith and Mr J. L. Balfour.

Golden daffodils of Ulster

By Janet Byrnes, Horticulture Correspondent

The Royal Horticultural Society's Old Hall, Westminster, is a mass of colour for the society's spring show, which incorporates the camellia and daffodil shows and competitions.

The only gold medal of the show has been awarded to Rathmore Daffodils, of Omagh, Co Tyrone, for an artistically arranged display of all types of daffodils, with a superb centrepiece of white varieties. The firm has a number of attractive cyclamen hybrids staged along the front of the display, also a good selection of its 1983 introductions, among the latter are 'Andrea', 'Birdseye Girl', 'Ladybank', 'Majorie Star', 'Elwing', 'Glenvale' and 'Wetherby'.

Among other eye-catching spring plants are the primulas and auriculas exhibited by Mrs B. Hyatt, of Chatham; delightful pansies and the bright blue *Lilium* 'Carmichael' shown by C. Newberry & Son, of Knebworth; and an interesting collection of leucophaea in flower showing their various habits of growth, displayed by Country Park Nurseries, of Bournemouth.

Many plants were submitted to the committees and the following received awards:

First class certificate: *Petra* variegata, mauve, from the director, RHS Gardens, Wisley, and *Prunella* 'Muller', double pink, from the director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Awards of merit were given to *Oenothera* 'Corbiere', 'Saint Helier', purple-white and yellow, from Mr E. E. Young, of St Helier, Jersey.

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Amateur Mr F. C. Postles, of Dorking, not only won the Guy Wilson memorial vase in the open section for six varieties of white daffodils - 'Dolce', 'White Star', 'Ben Avon', 'Cool Crystal', 'Verona' and 'Ben Hee' but also the

RHS daffodil competition contained many fine entries. In the open class, Mr J. Lea, of Shropshire, won the Eggleston challenge cup for 12 varieties raised by the exhibitor with 'Carmichael', 'Achdorn', 'Lock Lundy', 'Gold Convention', 'Tondino', 'Silver Convention', 'Lock Caron' and three unnamed seedlings.

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OBITUARY

MR JANIS SAPIETS

BBC broadcasting to the Soviet Union

A colleague writes:

The death of Janis Sapiets removes a man of remarkable gentleness and moral excellence, who exercised an unobtrusive yet considerable influence in the BBC's broadcasting to Eastern Europe - in particular to the Soviet Union - as he did upon many of his colleagues.

He was a familiar voice to an audience whose dimensions in Russia can only be guessed at but which was probably many millions. Sapiets occupied a rather special position in the Eastern European service at Bush House in that he was both head of its small central research unit and also had charge of religious broadcasting for the Russian service. They were tasks for which his own eclectic background equipped him particularly.

The Second World War had put an end to his hopes of a diplomatic career in an independent Latvia where he was born in 1921 and which was annexed by Stalin in 1940, following the agreement with Hitler to partition Eastern Europe. Sapiets, who spoke Russian, German, French, English and, of course, Latvian fluently, spent some years in displaced persons camps, with a period studying theology at Bonn University, before he arrived in England in 1947. Here he picked up the threads of the older political and religious alignments which once drew Northern Europe together.

He went to Belfast to study at the Presbyterian College, and was ordained as pastor of the Latvian Lutheran church in Scotland in 1950, and, also, joining the Church of Scotland in 1953, became a minister at South Leith, Edinburgh, and subsequently at Bank Hill Presbyterian Church, Bewick-upon-Tweed.

He was a central focus of the cultural and religious life of the Latvian community in Britain. After more time at London University, he joined the BBC's Russian Service in 1962. Throughout the 1970s he was head of the BBC's research and information at Bush House and editor of religious programming to the Soviet Union.

Sapiets was a deeply religious man and the fact that he had been a minister had a strong bearing on his whole approach. He was impressively devoid of bitterness or rancour. Although the Baltic states had been crushed by Stalin's empire, he saw in the Russians the greatness of the Dostoevskys.

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Despite continuing economic worries and the wettest winter on record, Hongkong is learning to live with the prospect of reverting to Chinese sovereignty in 1997, when the 99-year lease on the economically vital New Territories expires.

The stock market has recovered to a considerable extent from the knock it took last year when Mrs Thatcher went to Hongkong after a visit to China, where she apparently infuriated the Peking leaders by asserting that the 19th century treaties ceding the territory to Britain were "valid in international law". The Chinese contend that they were imposed by force on the tottering Manchu Dynasty.

After a few panicky weeks, when many Hongkong people started looking serious at ways of emigrating and getting their capital out, and the Hongkong dollar was effectively valued by 12 per cent with still hope of recovery, it became evident that Peking was not planning any early or drastic change in Hongkong's economy and life style.

After the heated denunciations of Mrs Thatcher's statements, even down to the assertion that Britain had a "responsibility" towards the people of Hongkong, the Peking leaders saw the economic damage they had done, and tried to right it.

A mood of sweet reasonableness has replaced the earlier prickliness, as the Chinese official media have gone off of their way to assure Hongkong people that it will be they, not cadres and soldiers from Peking, who will run the place but the British are invited to leave.

Some expatriates have wondered whether Peking would care to extend the lease (which it does not officially recognize in any case) with or without payment of rent, which has never been demanded in the past. But this seems improbable, given the fact that political "face" is the main reason for insisting on reversion of the sovereignty they claim to possess already by right, even if they are not exercising it.

It was unfortunate that Mrs Thatcher's visit coincided with a delicate phase of the internal campaign to rid the Chinese leadership of superannuated revolutionary veterans, leftist sympathizers, time servers, and people guilty of abuse of privilege.

Mr Deng's critics, including some top military commanders, might have decried the visit as a soft position on historically emotional issues such as Hongkong and Taiwan. The indispensable mark of a Chinese patriot today is a refusal to accept that the territorial division of China can be negotiated indefinitely.

The storm over the sovereignty issue came on top of Hongkong's leanest, business year since the 1973 world oil crisis. It is having more than usual difficulty in marketing the manufactured exports which are the basis of its prosperity.

The vastly overhauled property boom of the past few years has predictably burnt itself out, and the blame for many bad debts rests with the banking system which all too eagerly fuelled it. The Government has not helped by dropping the plan for a new airport and ocean bridge, which was previously touted as a symbol of its own confidence in the territory's future.

On the bright side, there was a surprisingly large turnout - more than 30 per cent of the electorate - at the recent elections for the urban council and district boards. Hongkong's only democratically elected organs of government.

Apathy over the urban council elections has been pointed to in the past as a sign that the people of Hongkong are not interested in democracy - only in a stable environment in which to make money and, if possible, prepare to emigrate.

Certainly the urban council's responsibilities are limited, with education, health, social services, roads, etc, being run directly by the Government, whose spokesman has recently said there will be no move towards greater public participation in the near future.

The Government is run by an executive and a legislative council, both of which are composed of *ex officio* members, and appointees such as business tycoons, lawyers and a sprinkling of social reformers.

Similarly, in Peking it is a point of Communist Party dogma that the people of Hongkong in the 21st century will be content with a status vaguely defined as that of a "special administrative region" of the People's Republic.

The territory, Peking promises, would keep its way of life and economic and legal systems for an unspecified time to come, after government and sovereignty had passed out of British hands. But how can the present leaders in China answer for the decisions of their successors in more than 14 years from now? Nor for that matter, can anyone know what the British Government in 1997 will want to do about Hongkong.

People here are frustrated by Mrs Thatcher's insistence on total confidentiality surrounding the talks being conducted by British and Chinese diplomats in Peking. They feel, understandably, that the issue is being settled behind their backs.

Assurances by the British and Hongkong governments that the people's interests are being kept in view cut little ice. With native scepticism, the Canton-

Hongkong



The future may be uncertain but the building goes on. Construction of the new headquarters of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank in Central district.

ese and other people of Hongkong show little surprise at this situation. Relatively speaking, they have had things pretty good, and 14 years is a long time in which to work out one's individual options for the future.

What rankle are the things considered to be signs of British indifference to the people who have lived peacefully and, on the whole, law-abidingly under the Union Jack for all this time. The Hongkong-issued British passport is a near-universal document for anything but short trips abroad. Britain has slashed educational subsidies for Hongkong students. Expatri-

ates still enjoy massive job preference and a standard of living they would be unlikely to have at home.

Despite this, there is hardly any overt hostility towards the "old devil" - as the Chinese commonly call Europeans in Hongkong. There is no safer place for a non-Chinese person to walk the streets by day or night (the same cannot be said for Chinese residents, for whom violent crime is a frequent and increasing menace). But anyone who was here in 1967 can recall how easily old resentments may boil over under provocation.

Hongkong is a place whose resilience and adaptability over

the years are proof of the commonsense of the vast majority of its inhabitants. Peking's proposed solution for 1997 and after is impeccable on paper - local autonomy and minimal change in lifestyle and economic and cultural freedom. It is Britain's responsibility to the process of negotiation and planning ahead, which will show not only the desirability, but also the sheer necessity, of guaranteeing that much to the territory's people, however many of them decide to seek their fortunes elsewhere in the meantime.

David Bonavia

ECONOMY

Fears that haunt the money men

The typhoons which sweep in from the South China Sea largely spared Hongkong last year, but the colony was battered by a series of political and economic storms whose aftermath is still very much in evidence.

When Mrs Thatcher came away from Peking in September without any sign of an agreement on what happens to Hongkong beyond the expiry of the New Territories lease in 1997, the gloom already pervading the economy turned into deep depression. It has lifted only slightly since.

Well before the Prime Minister arrived, the stock market had already fallen precipitously from its spring high as the scale of the problems in the glutted property market began to become apparent. Record high interest rates, designed to preserve the fragile Hongkong dollar against total collapse, had squeezed property speculators too hard and recession had already knocked the bottom out of the market for luxury offices and apartments.

After Mrs Thatcher's visit, which arguably did more to hinder than to help the course of the lease negotiations, owing to her intransigent stand on the legality of the leases, flight capital began pouring out of the colony. The local dollar weakened further and the Hang Seng stock market index was nudging 700 by December, roughly half its level in March.

By the middle of last year, too, it was clear that Hongkong's manufacturing and exports sector was in the grip of severe recession and corporate profits began to slide. Exports ended the year 3 per cent down in real terms and order books were looking very thin.

This was by no means the end of Hongkong's problems. Towards the end of November, several of the 350 or so secondary banks or "deposit-taking companies", which have sprung up over the past decade, began to fail. The cause in some cases was alleged fraud or malfeasance by directors but the common factor behind this sudden rash of wrongdoing was a rapid deterioration in the quality of DTC assets. Many of them were heavily involved in trade finance or property lending - loans they suddenly discovered were no longer paying interest or had simply

gone bad. Owners and managers began literally to cut and run while they still could.

A Government policy designed belatedly to stem the runaway growth of the deposit-taking companies and to force their public deposits back into the banking system also contributed to the failures. Those DTCs which were not subsidiaries of banks were thrown into heavy, and costly, dependence on the interbank market. Foreign and local banks which supply funds to this market found themselves dangerously exposed to slumping property assets and took sudden fright at the thought of their interbank lending being used to prop up unsound DTCs also in property or other doubtful lending.

Only some arm-twisting by the Government persuaded the foreign banks to maintain credit lines (while the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank offered emergency support to "soundly managed" DTCs). But with half a dozen DTCs now having failed, there is no indication that the crisis is over, or that it could not spread into the banking sector itself.

The effect of high land prices has been to negate the low income tax rate for all but those provided with company homes

As though to underline the gloom and despondency which had settled over the colony, the Chinese lunar new year (of the Pig) was ushered in during mid-February by prolonged rainstorms. Not even the grand fireworks display staged in Victoria Harbour could brighten the prospect for long. If Hongkong residents, Chinese and expatriate alike, were desperate by this time for good news, Mr John Brembridge, the Financial Secretary, was hardly in a position to give it when he delivered his end-February budget.

Hongkong's gross domestic product growth in 1982, he reported, had come out not at the 7 per cent he had originally forecast but at a modest 2.4 per

cent. Elsewhere in the region, only the Philippines had done that badly (2.6 per cent growth in 1982), while Singapore and South Korea had both managed 6 per cent growth, Indonesia 6.5 per cent and Thailand 4.5 per cent. Taiwan, too, had grown nearly 4 per cent but, unlike Hongkong, all of these countries give active encouragement to their manufacturing and export sectors, which they rely on for growth.

Mr Brembridge also had the unpleasant task of admitting that his forecast a year earlier of a budget surplus of some HK\$4,900m (about £490m) for fiscal 1982-83 had in fact come out as a HK\$2,400m deficit, owing to an unprecedented decline in the Government's fiscal position. Total revenues in fiscal 1982-83 had come out not at the earlier anticipated HK\$37,800m but at HK\$35,400m, while expenditures had come out somewhat higher than expected, at HK\$33,200m.

Budget deficits are by no means unique to Hongkong, but it was the severity of the deterioration which surprised most people. Land sales revenue has in recent years been what the Government has relied upon most heavily to finance its surplus budget and in 1982/83 land sales revenues fell by HK\$7,000m. The irony of this is that the impact of high land prices at public auction has been correspondingly high prices for office and residential accommodation, whether for sale or to let. And greedy speculators have added on their own liberal margin. The result has been to negate the advantage of a low (15 per cent) income tax rate in Hongkong for all but those expatriates who enjoy the luxury of accommodation provided by their firms.

Although property rental values have declined in the recent crash most people have not felt the full benefit in terms of lower rents and sale prices, simply because a large volume of empty property is being held off the market. Mr Brembridge, perhaps fearing a social backlash if he raised direct taxes and thereby aggravated the existing problems of still high rates, falling real incomes and rising unemployment, opted to increase direct taxes instead. He went for fairly severe imposts on tobacco and alcohol, motor fuel and licences and property

Continued on page 11

EXPORTS

Looking for a lifeline from abroad

The real prospect of Hongkong has always depended on exports, rather than the rowdy-based wealth generated in recent years by the financial and property boom. Now that the property sector has collapsed, and banks are wallowing in bad debt, it is the export sector to which the colony is looking again for rescue.

Never has this been more true than in 1983 when private domestic demands subdued by recession and government spending is severely constrained by the first major budget deficit in many years. However, because of the Government's *laissez-faire* policies, the export sector has enjoyed precious little encouragement to diversify out of traditional products and there are no signs of any move over the demand for textiles in particular this year.

In real (inflation-adjusted) terms, the colony's domestic exports actually declined by 2.7 per cent in 1982, but the Government is aiming for a 5 per cent real increase this year. This is based on the forecast that the leading industrial economies as a whole will expand their output by 1.5 per cent in 1982 following a contraction of 0.5 per cent last year. The point of the United States economy is crucial to both forecasts.

The United States is by far the biggest single customer for Hongkong's domestic exports, taking HK\$29,200m (about £2,920m) worth in 1981 (latest available full-year figure) out of total domestic exports of HK\$80,400m. Including Canada, North American sales were worth HK\$31,600m against the HK\$23,700m worth taken by Western Europe and HK\$12,000m by Asian countries.

The Hongkong Government is estimating a 5 per cent rise in domestic exports to the US in 1983, which should be possible, especially in the light of the relatively moderate attitude taken by Washington towards textile imports from Hongkong in the recent Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA) negotiations. Exports to Western Europe, and in particular to EEC countries such as France, Britain and Germany, are likely to do far less well, however. Much the same can be said of exports to Canada, Australia, Africa and the Middle East. Last year, Hongkong's exports to Britain fell by 10 per cent and those to Germany by 4 per cent, whereas sales to the US declined by only 1 per cent.

The key to Hongkong's export problems is the colony's very high dependence on clothing and textile fabrics. In 1981 clothing

exports made up HK\$28,300m out of the merchandise total of HK\$80,000m and, if a further HK\$4,000m is added for textile fabrics, the "textile" trade accounted for nearly 40 per cent of the total. It is not hard to see the problems that that points to, given not only the much greater rivalry nowadays from places such as South Korea, Taiwan and Macao (plus China) but also the protectionist attitude of European textile makers.

The export sector receives virtually no encouragement other than in trade promotion

The remainder of Hongkong's export spectrum is hardly wide. In 1981 watches and clocks accounted for HK\$7,000m of exports and toys and dolls for a further HK\$7,000m. These three categories accounted for well over a half of total exports.

It is true that the colony has a strong services base in areas such as tourism, banking and shipping. But it is the (highly export dependent) manufacturing sector which still employs by far the biggest proportion of Hongkong's working population

- close to one million in 1981 or nearly twice the number engaged in trade and tourism and dwarfing the 155,000 in finance and business services. Yet the export sector receives virtually no official encouragement other than at the trade promotion level.

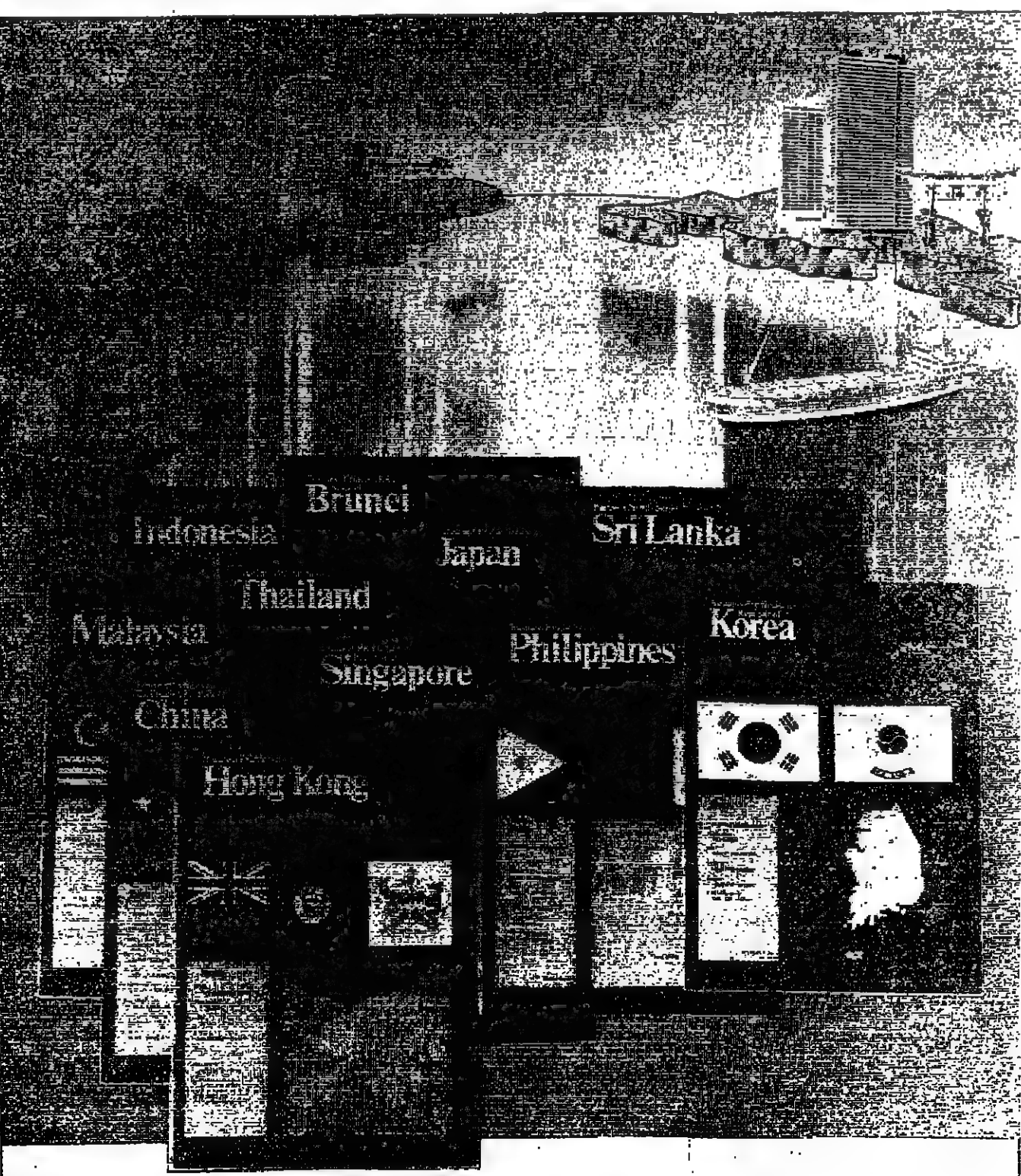
Fortunately re-exports have remained somewhat stronger than domestic exports, managing a 0.3 per cent growth in 1982 and expected to rise 12 per cent in real terms this year. That should push the colony's total exports (domestic plus re-exports) up by 7 per cent this year. Hongkong's re-exports consist mainly of consumer goods plus raw materials and semi-manufactures - HK\$17,300m and HK\$16,400m respectively out of total merchandise re-exports of HK\$41,700m in 1981. China is the biggest single source (some HK\$13,000m worth) followed by Japan (HK\$8,400m) and Asian countries as a whole are by far the biggest market, taking HK\$27,400m worth in 1981.

Hongkong manufacturers have made repeated pleas to the Government in recent years for help by way of concessional finance, cheaper industrial land and other facilities in order to boost their international competitiveness. But the pleas have fallen largely on deaf ears. Credit poured instead into the now glutted property market, where for a time it looked as though the sky was the limit for profits until it came to the time to find occupants for the myriad skyscraper office blocks that had sprung up and to which local and foreign banks had lent money with liberal abandon.

A fraction of the money that went into the greedy dreams of property speculators, if invested in manufacturing, might have produced a much more highly capitalized, diversified and modernized export sector. Instead the reverse happened and many exporters, seeing the profits reaped from property speculation, tried their hand at it by closing down factories and selling the land for commercial development. However, the property apple has gone rotten.

Seeing the desperate straits of some manufacturers in the recession, and possibly fearing the social consequences of rising unemployment in the manufacturing/export sector, the big local banks have recently begun offering concessional loans to industry - taking their cue from the Bank of China. It is a belated and inadequate gesture which is hardly to push Hongkong towards an export boom.

Anthony Rowley
Business Editor,
Far Eastern Economic Review



Discover

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A closer examination of some companies' individual investment programmes will provide additional proof that Hong Kong is looking forward to an exciting and confident future.

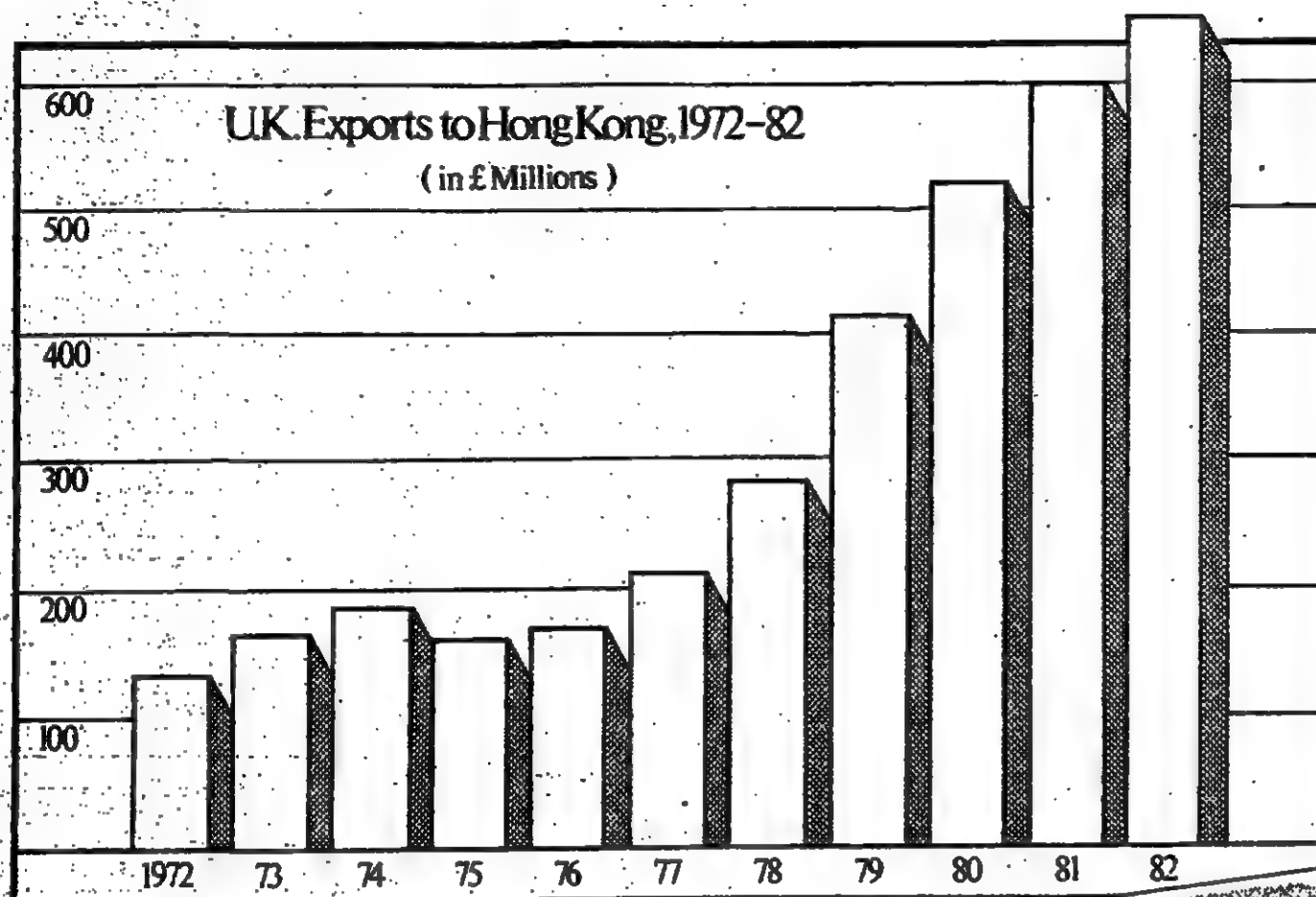
□ Chartered Bank announces major redevelopment of HK head office.

□ Thomas De La Rue & Co to establish £5.9 million factory to print HK banknotes.

□ Hongkong Telephone Company announces £500 million capital investment programme over the next 6 years. £68 million in 1983 alone.



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□ Housing Authority announces £39.5 million worth of public housing construction contracts awarded for Taiipo, Cheung Chau and Ngau Tau Kok (5,778 flats for 32,800 people).

□ Government awards £21.8 million contract for foundations of a £136 million 6-tower office complex on Wanchai reclamation area.

□ £2.7 million aluminium plant (Modern Metal & Refining Ltd) to start production at Yuen Long Industrial Estate in March 1983.

□ £118 million investment planned by 36 companies in Taiipo and Yuen Long Industrial Estates.

□ £118 million contract awarded by Hongkong Land to Gammon for first phase of Exchange Square development.

□ American Express announces that all regional travellers' cheque and credit card operations will be moved to Hong Kong.

□ Ferranti Electronics in joint venture with Wheelock Marden.

□ Governor announces 203,000 public housing flats will be built between 1982/83 and 1986/87 (average of over 40,000 per year).

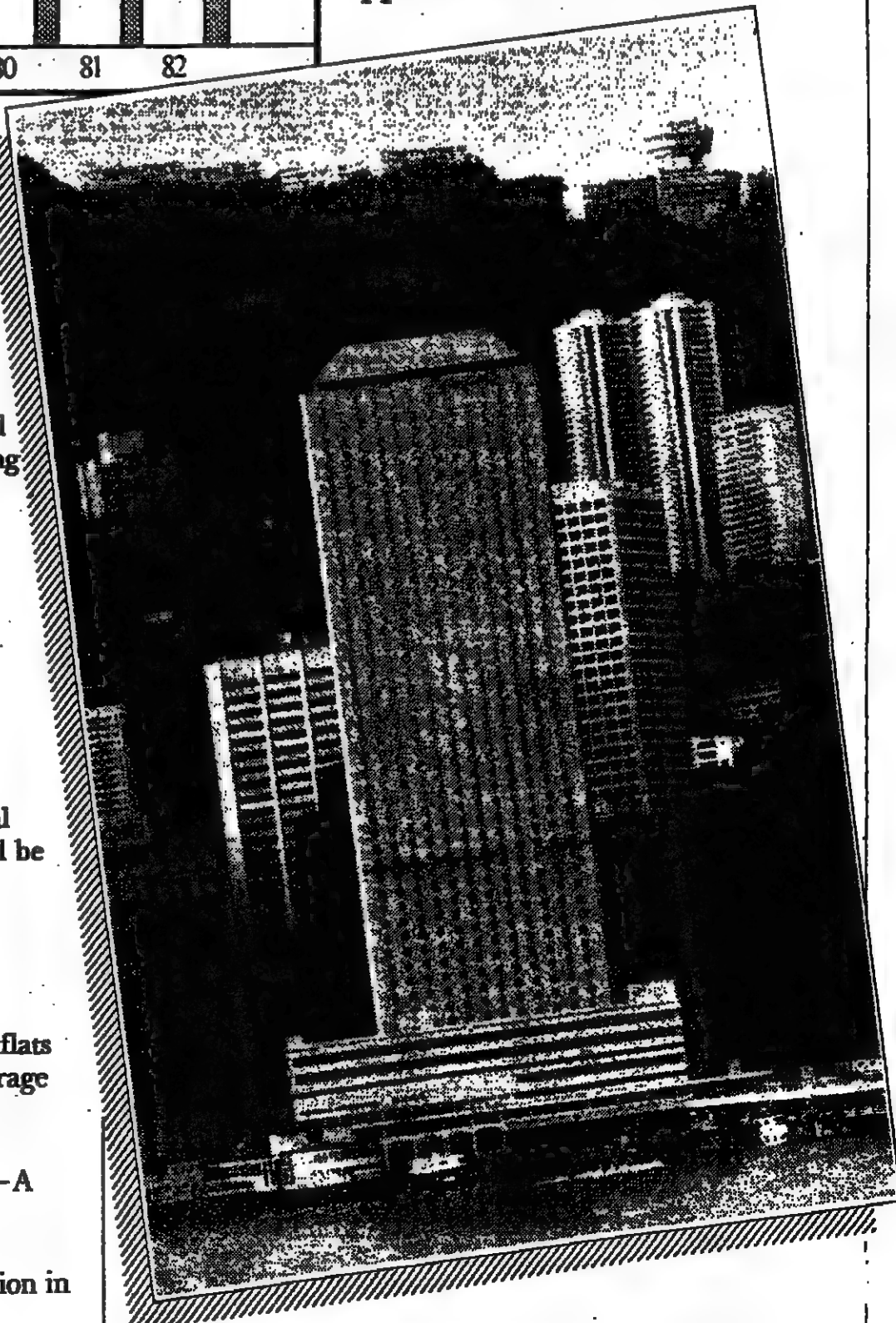
□ Hong Kong fashions take London by storm — A Harvey Nichols promotion.

□ Brown Boveri of Switzerland invests £2.7 million in electronics plant at Taiipo Industrial Estate.

□ 4 Japanese Banks and 1 French Bank to open in Hong Kong.

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□ HK Electronics Fair estimated to have won £5.9 million in on-the-spot orders with further £16.4 million under negotiation.



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REFUGEES

An unfriendly welcome at Chi Ma Wan

Barbed wire surmounts the high prison fences. A thin wind whips off the sea and slices between the forbidding grey buildings. Its very name, Chi Ma Wan Closed Centre, has a sinister ring about it, but it is the reality facing Vietnamese fleeing to Hongkong by boat.

It is a reality given added poignancy by the children running around the camp. At any one time monthly births are likely to be in double figures. New lives utterly without prospects, beginning on a little prison island with the haven of Hongkong seen vaguely in the distance through the mists.

Hongkong, the beacon for countless thousands of refugees over the years from both China and Vietnam, is only reflecting the weariness of the Western countries with the problems of the boat people and the economic concerns which force them to reconsider their priorities.

Eight years after the end of the Vietnam war they are still arriving, though fewer than in the recent past, when there was less concern. Resettlements have slowed to a tenth of what they were two years ago but those now leaving Vietnam have little chance of being resettled through Hongkong. They are likely to be in the colony indefinitely.

To some, the barbed wire and the prison conditions seem unnecessarily cruel, but the authorities have decided that for the good of both sides the exodus has to be discouraged. The rigid conditions of Chi Ma Wan should be enough to discourage anyone not actually facing certain death in Vietnam.

In Chi Ma Wan now are 2,958 unfortunates who arrived after the cut-off date of July 2 last year. The camp is clean and orderly and, in contrast with some of the open holding camps, there is no overcrowding, but there is no mistaking the status of the inmates. They

respond to visitors as to jailers until they realize the possibilities of a journalistic contact; but it is a cruel hope, falsely raised.

Hongkong's place in the ranking of countries of first asylum for Vietnamese refugees has always been a special one. The profile of arrivals has gradually changed, unlike those for other regional countries. The beginning was conventional enough, with the arrival of the *Clara Maersk* in May 1975 with 3,743 escapees on board. The early arrivals - the trickle became a flood with more than 66,000 landing in the first seven months of 1979 - were almost exclusively ethnic Chinese; many of them from the south of Vietnam.

Those refugees, fleeing Vietnamese persecution of the Chinese minority, were of a high calibre, mainly business people with skills to offer and often quite a lot of money to start a new life in third countries. Being Chinese, most were well educated and adaptable, readily able to fit in almost anywhere they were sent. In 1979 only 15 per cent of the arrivals were ethnic Vietnamese. Today the ethnic Vietnamese make up 98 per cent.

Today's refugees from Vietnam are of a different calibre from their predecessors. Most are from north or central Vietnam. They have little education, coming mostly from fishing villages or the countryside, and few skills to offer resettlement countries. Their reasons for leaving are most often economic, but some wish to escape military service.

There would be little use in putting them into the open centres in which earlier arrivals were placed; they could not go out to jobs as refugees in Hongkong itself do.

Towards the end of last month there were 12,352 awaiting resettlement, with only about 5 per cent of them having

secured acceptance abroad: at the same time 1982 arrivals had fallen, but by a much smaller margin than in the rest of the region.

The number of arrivals by boat throughout the area last year fell by 42 per cent. In Hongkong the fall was only 6 per cent. Resettlement has been disappointingly low compared with other South-East Asian countries which have received the boat people. Hongkong's rate for 1982 was 44 per cent, while other first asylum countries went as high as Malaysia's 66 per cent.

All this has persuaded the Hongkong authorities that drastic measures to cut off the flow from Vietnam may be required. In spite of considerable assistance in the closed camps from the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the refugees have cost the Hongkong Government US \$18m (about £12m) in straight outgoings. This does not take into account the diversion of resources and the use of land which would otherwise yield a return.

Among the options being considered is the forced repatriation of new arrivals, a dramatic switch from the humanitarian policy which has set Hongkong apart from other South-East Asian countries in the past. Such a programme is still only at the stage of being considered. Should it go ahead it would have to be the subject of negotiations not only with the Foreign Office in London but also with the Vietnamese Government and the UNHCR.

The numbers of Vietnamese boat people in Hongkong pale into insignificance compared with the influx from China. The peak of the flood again coincided with events in Indo-China. As Chinese troops were withdrawn from the border with Hongkong to cope with the fighting on the Vietnam-China border, the steady flow of



One of the young refugees at the Jubilee Camp in Kowloon

refugees from China became a flood. In 1979 90,000 were caught on first arrival and 107,000 got through to "touch base" under the policy then prevailing, which allowed those who managed to evade both the Chinese and the British to stay.

That influx so frightened the authorities and the people of Hongkong that the "touch base" policy was abolished. Last year 8,700 hopefuls were turned back. That change and the introduction of identity cards for Hongkong citizens have not eliminated the problem of the illegals brought in by "snake heads" or racketeers. These illegals are responsible, the authorities believe, for much of the recent violent crime in Hongkong.

While the police have had a good deal of success in picking up illegals, the skill of the counterfeits has prevented them from being totally successful. Since the "touch base" rule

was ended it has been estimated that more than 8,000 illegals are living underground. They are still arriving at the rate of nine a day.

To counteract the illegals and their effect on the crime rate, new identity cards are being issued from this month. Learning from the lessons of Northern Ireland, they will be backed by a new computer which will allow police officers to run immediate checks on identity cards.

Given the current poor state of the Hongkong economy and the heavy penalties for those assisting illegal immigrants, the police will most probably enjoy considerable public support in the hunt for illegals. Thus, with good policing at the border, it is hoped to eliminate the illegal element in Hongkong's population.

David Watts

HIGHER EDUCATION

Getting ready for the great leap forward

Hongkong has always been something of a laggard in educational development. When the rest of the world was racing to expand tertiary education, the British-administered territory had to stand on the sidelines. It was then still struggling to provide enough school places at the primary and secondary levels.

Now that budgetary stringency and slackening demand for university students have caught up with a number of Western countries, effectively putting a curb on further growth, Hongkong is preparing for its "great leap forward" in the field of higher education.

Current plans are that by the mid-1990s the opportunities for degree courses will increase threefold. The target is to raise first-year degree places from 2.5 per cent of the 17 to 19 age group to eight per cent by 1995, two years before the lease on the New Territories expires. There are plans for a second polytechnic to be opened by 1988, with a total enrolment of 20,000 students, of whom 8,000 will be full-time and the rest part-time and evening students. In the early 1990s numbers will rise to 30,000, of whom 13,500 will be full-time students. A site is being prepared and the appointment of a director is under consideration.

Thirty per cent of the courses offered at the new polytechnic will be at degree level. On top of this, the authorities are examining the feasibility of an open university.

Existing institutions will also be significantly developed over the next ten years. The supply of degree places will be increased by 4 per cent a year at Hongkong's two universities up till 1988, with specific training requests by the Government to be met over and above this figure.

This will see total enrolment at the University of Hongkong, the territory's oldest, and at the newer Chinese University growing from the present 11,200 to 15,100 in four years' time. This is 3,000 places in excess

of the projection of the 1978 White Paper on senior secondary and tertiary education. In the longer term, the English-language University of Hongkong has been asked to explore the possibility of increasing its student population from 6,000 to about 10,000 in the mid 1990s, with emphasis on a greater intake of medical and law students.

The Hongkong Polytechnic, which at present has an enrolment of 23,400 - of whom 8,000 are full time, 3,700 day-release, and the remainder evening class students - ought to have 30 per cent of its planned full-time equivalent students on degree courses by 1988.

This expansion comes amid uncertainty and anxieties about the future of Hongkong after Britain's lease on the New Territories runs out in 1997, currently the subject of negotiations with China. Why embark on an expansion programme while the whole Hongkong question remains unsolved?

One reason is that, despite present worries, most people realize that there will be nowhere for them to go whatever happens in 1997. They live in hope that when sovereignty reverts to China, life here will be little changed.

With hardly any natural resources, and depending for its living on its ability to trade effectively, Hongkong must ensure that its gradually diversifying economy is well supplied with highly educated and skilled manpower. Also, the groundwork for the present expansion was laid in the late 1970s, when it was widely held that the last thing China would do would be to disturb the status quo in Hongkong, lest it kill the goose that laid the golden eggs.

To halt expansion plans while negotiations between Britain and China are at a delicate stage would be interpreted by Hongkong people as a sign that the Government was

getting ready to pull out, and this could cause a crisis of confidence. Clearly, in the long term, much will depend on the outcome of the current talks, but with expansion virtually guaranteed until the end of the decade, it is not surprising that policy makers and educators are exuding confidence.

Professor M A Brimer, head of the School of Education at the University of Hongkong, points out: "We are the envy of the rest of the university world because we are expanding when everybody else is contracting. The provision of university places, however, is still low. With a population of some five and a half million, the territory has only two universities and one polytechnic, compared with the seven universities and four polytechnics for a population of three million in New Zealand."

University places are available for only 2.5 per cent of the 17-20 age group, compared with 4 to 6 per cent in other Asian countries. Hongkong lags behind countries such as Singapore and South Korea, which are regarded as being at a comparable stage of development.

This has resulted in a brain-drain to the United States, Canada and Britain. According to recent statistics, more than 14,400 students went overseas for their education in 1981-82, a number which exceeds by more than 4,000 the total enrolment of the two local universities in the same period.

By acquiring a near-monopoly of secondary education, the Government has created expectations that it will provide further education for matriculating sixth-formers.

Nobody wants to repeat the mistakes of countries such as India, where the rush to expand tertiary education has meant that many graduates take menial jobs, for lack of employment suited to their qualifications.

Halima Guterres
South China Morning Post

The continuing property slump

Continued from page 11

The Government is also taking advantage of the market downturn. A home-ownership scheme for the middle-class (family income of between HK\$6,500 and HK\$13,000 a month) has been scrapped after 2,500 flats selling for HK\$300,000 to HK\$300,000 drew only 1,000 applications. Land allocated for this middle-income housing scheme is likely to revert to the home ownership scheme for families earning less than HK\$6,500 a month. Flats in this scheme are very much in demand, drawing several times more applications than can be accommodated. Annual production is running at a modest 5,000 units.

Furthermore, the Government is using this cooling-off period to repay a curious and complicated land debt of more than 100 million square feet to Letters B holders. Letters B were issued to New Territories land owners whose property was used for the construction of new towns.

As these land exchange

entitlements were transferable, most were sold to property developers. In the past, however, much of the land put out for redemption of Letters B was for industrial use and was thus unattractive to holders. In its April-September land sales forecast, however, the Government will be putting out a record 900,000 sq ft of residential land in the New Territories for such exchange - 41 per cent of sites allocated for this category of land use.

The market conditions have also brought a new method of land disposal. Some 400,000 sq ft of residential land, most of it in the prime South Hongkong Island zone, will be available for sale "by auction or tender on application". This means that developers are obliged to show their genuine interest by depositing an amount (to be fixed by the Government) which will reflect the base market value for the site. The eventual sale price should not go below this value.

Analysts are divided as to when the property market will recover from its present slump.

Valuers and estate agents say it is now possible to acquire prime properties at bargain prices. Jones Lang Wootton argues that yields on prime property of 9-10 per cent compare favourably with prevailing interest rates. Meanwhile, talks on Hongkong's future have reached a stalemate over the issue of sovereignty. Recovery of the economy, with its reliance on exports, is on the cards, but unless Peking allows a continuation of some form of official British presence in the territory after 1997, confidence in Hongkong's future can be no more than short-term. In these circumstances, the property companies can at best look forward to avoiding further erosion of the market.

Mary Lee

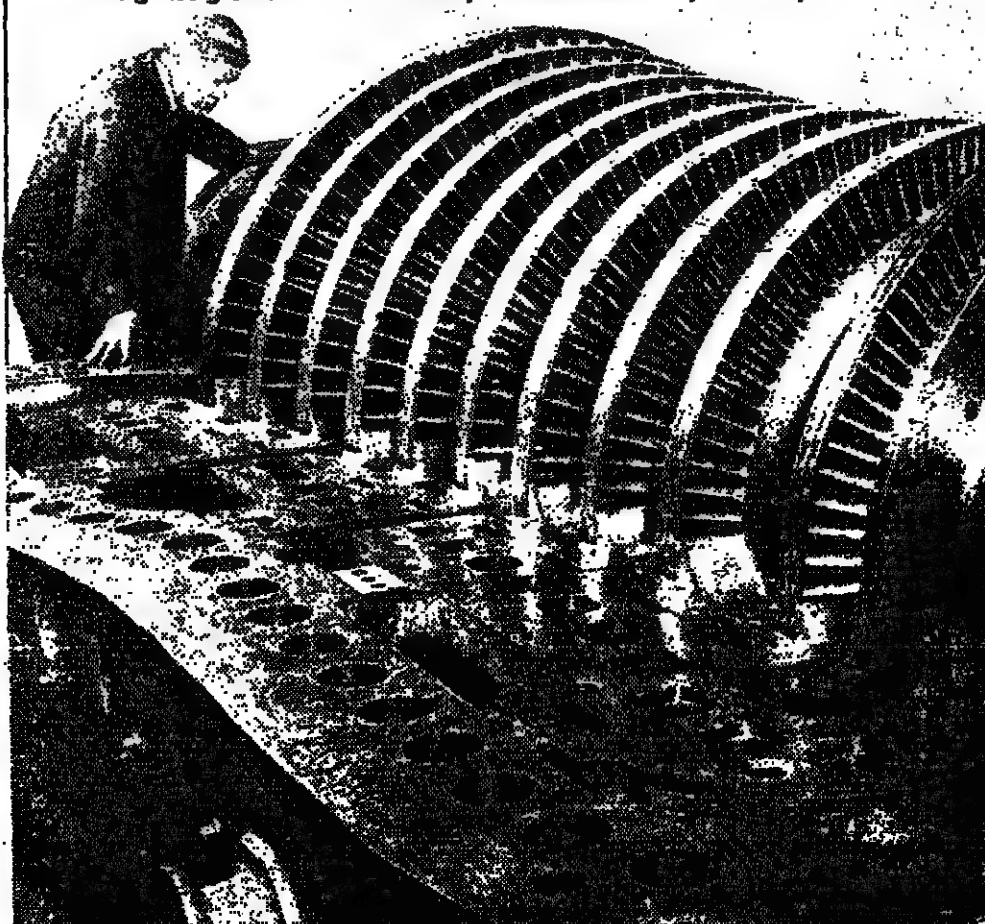
Hongkong Correspondent,
Far Eastern Economic Review.

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THE ARTS

Television
When the
scalpel
slips...

When one enters hospital one becomes an object, a thing to be probed or dissected, and in such circumstances it is peculiarly difficult to assert any ordinary personality. A patient must be patient, resigned to his or her fate. That was the lesson of *Medical Mistake: Who Pays the Price?* (Thames) which examined the consequences of accidents which occur during surgery.

The "price" can be serious injury or even death; the price in financial terms hardly seemed to matter to the people who were interviewed last night. They are not concerned with compensation, simply for explanation: Why did my son die? Why is my husband on an artificial support machine? In many cases - if I may paraphrase the poet - "and answer came there none". The surgeons or doctors involved often refused to explain what had happened, or even to apologise for any (of course hypothetical) errors of judgment or practice.

This must in part stem from a natural feeling of guilt or shame. But in many cases it seems to have been simply a professional calculation: if they admit responsibility, they may be sued. But the complainants are also dealing with a "caring" profession which has, in the past at least, characteristically taken a distant or patronising attitude towards its clients - an attitude compounded by many patients themselves who regard doctors with awe or respect. They will often become stoical, or merely resigned, after they have been afflicted by a medical calamity.

Last night's programme was, in that sense, an examination of that neutral territory in which human beings become the objects of institutionalised care - no amount of "caring" or of false cheerfulness can disguise the fact that the important thing about them is the name-tag attached to their wrist. It is a labyrinthine world, also, where those who seek redress for medical injuries find themselves obstructed at every turn. One couple, whose daughter had died after treatment for epilepsy, consulted four solicitors, three barristers and five medical experts. After five years, they are no closer to discovering the real reasons for her death.

As always in television programmes of this kind, the individual horror story - with the victims or relatives talking about their specific experiences - is more dramatic and more powerful than the generalized or analytical responses of the "experts". Clearly the doctors can make out a case for their behaviour: some operations are necessarily hazardous or unusual, the excessive threat of litigation inhibits proper medical treatment in the United States, and so on. It was to the credit of *Medical Mistake* that it raised these points, also, and examined the whole problem of medical liability in a lucid and unsensational manner.

Peter Ackroyd



Act I Scene 2: Regine Crespin (left) and Felicity Lott in the convent parlour

Opera

Marvellous display of vocal heroism

The Carmelites
Covent Garden

Life offers few pleasures like that of hearing Felicity Lott and Valérie Masterson singing on the same stage. Unfortunately there is a price to be paid. You have to sit through Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmelites*, and it does, I fear, take a rather special taste to enjoy such exchanges of sweet platitudes for three hours before one of them have their heads chopped off, the serial executions all too graphically presented. Singing the *Salve Regina* in a diminishing chorus, gazing firmly heavenward while the sisters take their turns to rush off to the right and meet their doom in a guillotine sound compounded of gulls and steel.

If the whole opera were on that splendidly grotesque level, then it might be applauded as an exercise in bad taste. In fact, though, the only rival to this final scene is in the second act where two priest and nuns' choruses embark on the *Ave Maria* copiously whooshing harp and symphonic night-club harmonies in the strings. The

justification for this revival therefore has to be found elsewhere, and it comes first and foremost from the magnificence of the singing: rarely can so much artistry have been lavished on so poor an opera.

What might be accounted another virtue of the evening is its historical authenticity. Against this day Covent Garden have been storing the dark chocolate habits and the prison-grey convent setting for Marguerite Wallmann's production, unused since 1963. Madame Wallmann was Poulenc's choice of producer for the world premiere at La Scala in 1957, and she repeated her staging for Covent Garden a year later; happily she has also been able to return to supervise this revival, sung as before in English.

There is another link with the past, as readers of Monday's page will be aware, in Regine Crespin, who in the first French production took the part of the lively voiced new prioress, now sung by Miss Masterson. This time round Madame Crespin is the old prioress, Madame de Croissy, a dramatic role that cruelly points up the fact that she is the only non-English-speaking member of the cast. Her

voice, too, is stormy and, though she acts with gusto in her death scene, she is sadly let down at this point by the score, which steals blatantly from the equivalent moment in *Boris Godunov*.

Nor is that the end of Poulenc's thefts. His orchestral music is filled with a good deal of Stravinsky that he did. Even so, as well as some of the most inventive and at times even exciting aspects of the opera, and it is good to hear it presented with so much life and attack as it is here under Michel Plasseau.

The singers have a lot less to get their teeth into. Poulenc keeps offering them phrases which sound like introductions to popular songs, which settle on the right sort of cadence, but which then stop for another introduction. Felicity Lott as Sister Blanche is perhaps more than anyone else the victim of this deadening style, and it is a pity to her credit that she keeps up her enthusiasm right through the performance, complete with a nice portrait of dissembling. Her and a marvellous display of vocal heroism. The snivels never get into the singing: the sound is ringingly true, even when a phrase starts dangerously

high, and Miss Lott gives every impression that she believes in her character even if nobody else can. She could not otherwise weight the words so clearly and significantly.

It is also a tremendous night for Miss Masterson, her voice a stream of liquid silver but at the same time huskily human. In her big number in the third act, where Poulenc does at last write something like a major aria, she makes a sound so beautiful one wishes it could go on for ever, no matter what she is actually singing about. And, as if these two outstanding sopranos were not enough, there is a third, Lillian Watson, who is brilliant as the young Sister Constance, pure as a little bell but with every word intact.

Robin Leggate takes his opportunities for lyrical finesse as the Chevalier de la Force, John Dobson passes unscathed through the maudlin part of the Father Confessor (he is the valiant sole survivor from the last revival) and Pauline Tinsley lends an excellent forceful high register to Mother Marie. There is good work also from other Carmelites too numerous to mention.

Paul Griffiths

Theatre
England's finestDaisy Pulls It Off
Globe

With Julian Mitchell's *Another Country* playing almost next door, the Globe and the Queen's now preside over Shaftesbury Avenue like a venerable educational establishment, and if there were an interconnecting door between the two buildings you could imagine a hefty school sergeant on duty to prevent Mr Mitchell's depraved boys from getting in among Denise Deegan's innocent young ladies. Coming in to roost from Southampton's Nuffield Theatre, *Daisy Pulls It Off* has found the perfect London address, though nobody is going to mark it up, like the adjoining entertainment, as a devastating anatomy of the British public school system.

Grangewood School for Girls is a true blue Angela Brazil academy where class recitations of "The Mariners of England" and unaccompanied choruses of "Cherry Ripe" come a poor second to the search for family treasure and a cliff rescue in a howling storm. It is a bumper annual and, true to form, its heroine is an elementary school girl who strikes a gallant blow against class privilege before discovering she has Grade A blood in her veins.

From the moment of her awed arrival, of course, Daisy comes out top in everything, to the rage of her two snobbish classmates who entrap her with every device known to the fourth-form mind before the guileless heroine routs them in a multiple climax of life-saving, treasure hunting and a famous victory on the hockey field, not to mention finding her long-lost father.

To put over this tale, Miss Deegan has hit on the homely but effective device of a school play, beginning with staff chatting to parents in the stalls and ending with a rousing performance of the school anthem. In between, we get lots of fun at Angela Brazil's expense, but not at the expense of the story, as which had Monday night's audience cheering Daisy on to her concluding triumphs.

The production pulls this off through a seamless collaboration between the author and her director, David Gilmore. Miss Deegan gets some of her best effects from mixing in dialogue with third-person narrative. Clare (Kate Buffery), the splendid head girl, is interrogating two wrongdoers; then she turns and informs us that "the corners of Clare's mouth twitched". Then she twitches them.

The comedy depends partly on heroic statements of the obvious, knot, Daisy announces, standing with a pile of sheets on the cliff-top. There are also key words like or "clinging to a ledge" which, Mr Gilmore's thump home in verbal italics as if no one had ever heard of such things before.

Another good reason for welcoming the show is that it features the Southampton cast virtually intact. Headed by Alexandra Mathie's idealized Daisy, it is an excellent company, thoroughly drilled in the mannerish gym-slip mortar board routines, but full of individual comic detail that never overbalances into gross caricature. Look out for Edith Brychta's poisonous Sybil, and Helena Little's Trilby, "poet and madcap of the upper fourth".

Irving Wardle

Concert
Romantic spreadLPO/Lopez-Cobos
Festival Hall

Whoever at the LPO counted them all out and counted them back in again on Monday must have been in trouble: two recalcitrant trumpet players sidled on during the first movement of the Schumann Piano Concerto. We lost, I suppose, some thirteen notes - and pretty uninteresting ones they are too - but it says little either for the players' professionalism or for the observant eyes of the conductor, Jesus Lopez-Cobos, that such an incident can occur.

It provided only a momentary distraction, however, from an absorbing and unusual account of the solo part by Andris Schiff. He is usually associated with the tighter, closed structures of Bach and Mozart, and rarely spreads himself on this romantic scale; but, having decided to indulge, he did so with the utmost freedom and panache. Each phrase was swept from the keyboard, sometimes with a momentary awkwardness, but always with an exact sense of where the climax was to occur.

Schiff's playing gave the impression that every idea had been carefully rethought; the marvellous first movement cadenza found its central point of tension at a most unusual place. The slow movement, so often merely pretty, was dug deep into the keyboard without losing its essential grace, and the transition to the finale (with bass octaves and momentarily held-back chords heightening the tension) was splendid.

There was little rhythmic manipulation or indeed rhythmic interest in Jesus Lopez-Cobos's play-through of Sibelius's First Symphony after the interval: with his broad, noble, gestures and confident mien, he looks the epitome of the romantic conductor, and he certainly seems to give his players what they need. But the music needs more, and the spiky, startling quality of Sibelius's inventiveness was rarely hinted at in this comfortable, at times rousing, but generally unfocused reading. To begin, Lopez-Cobos tried to bring a little Spanish warmth to Vaughan Williams's *Tallis Fantasia*, which was about as successful as a zarzuela in an English cathedral.

Nicholas Kenyon

The Haunted Manor
John Lewis

Not many operagoers, unless they are Polish, will claim much experience of Montezuko, who was active in the mid-nineteenth century, some time between Chopin and Szymanowski. His comic opera *The Haunted Manor* (1865) is this year's choice by the enterprising John Lewis Music Society to add to an impressive list of previous productions of operas seldom to be found elsewhere.

The Beggar's Opera
Sadler's Wells

While Handel reigns supreme this week at his Hanover Square festival, one of the chaps who almost ruined his operatic career in London, John Gay, is holding the stage further north at Sadler's Wells.

Kent Opera, at the end of their tour, brought to Rosebery Avenue on Monday and will

repeat tomorrow their *Beggar's Opera*, which was first seen last summer at Aldeburgh. Now, as then, Britain's realization of the burlesque score is by far the best thing in the evening, richly and lucidly performed by the small Kent Opera Orchestra under Graeme Jenkins, and with the same strong cast.

In its deft instrumentation and piquant harmonization of contemporary and folk songs, it gently suggests the cross-currents of tenderness and cynicism, of sentiment, farce and

The story, as such, is naive and pretty dotty. It involves a couple of officer-brothers who vow never to marry in case their country should need them again. The sight of a neighbour's two snubbed daughters persuades them otherwise, but not until after they have spent a night in a supposedly haunted ancestral gallery, proving that nothing (and getting more accomplished attention) and some imaginative orchestral writing played with good response to James Robertson's conducting.

All this drizzle is slow to take musical wing, which it does in an excellently-crafted second

act, but the haunting scene runs out of steam long before it is over, and final explanations, involving such Englishry as "Grandfather multiplied the five/he procreated daughters mine", are also unduly prolonged. Chris de Souza's direction shows a firm focus of visual attention in acceptably simple designs by Riccardo Isotta, and a keen involvement by most of the cast.

The soprano Julia Dewhurst had one plum aria in "When duty calls", which she sang with attractive agility, and a senior

romance was given ardent spirit by David Flint. His brother officer and the second sister were capably sung by Martin Nelson and Amanda Hughes-Jones, as was the girls' father by Peter Allanson. The musical style is less that of Glinka and Smetana, as claimed in some references, than Auber and Flotow, and there are further performances (in the auditorium at 4 Old Cavendish Street) tonight and on Friday.

Noel Goodwin

The New York stage
Neil Simon as he wanted to be

Last acts are often anti-climaxes, but the final third of a largely dreary New York theatre season has begun. Like a dynamic explosion, intricate dramas about the fate of one or two characters are alternating openings with plays encompassing many lives. The latter are riskier than ever financially, but three appear set to enjoy the combination of artistic and commercial success which has eluded most straight plays this theatrical year.

The parade began with Simon Grey's *Quartermaine's Terms*, which has settled in at Playhouse 91, a handsome new Off-Broadway theatre. Foremost among the attractions of the production, imported from the Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven, Connecticut, is Remak Ramsey's Quartermaine.

Beginning with an engagingly bombastic Victor opposite

Maggie Smith in the 1975 Broadway *Private Lives*, distinguished by an impeccable Sir Robert Morley in a 1980 revival of *The Winslow Boy* and tracing a guest in *Quartermaine*, Mr Ramsey has emerged as probably the best native American actor of British characters. Tall and stolid, with an unusual voice which can blend falsetto and baritone in a single phrase, he plays Quartermaine with a physical grace which clearly links the character with the endangered swan mentioned in the play. Mentally he appears an earnest toddler, guilelessly awash amongst adults who are swimming furiously. With unerring proportion, Remak Ramsey materializes just enough for a character whose presence is virtually an absence.

A play revival approximate in merit to the lovingly

repeated musical *On Your Toes*, and coincidentally of the same Depression period and anti-depressant effect, is Ellis Rabb's staging of *You Can't Take It With You* (Plymouth Theatre). Some repetitious patches in the writing and fussy bits of direction aside, Kaufman and Hart's comedy has at least as much to say about living and loving today as it did to its first audiences in 1936, and a Broadway cast obviously enraptured with saying it.

Mr Rabb has choreographed not only stars shooting off sparks, particularly Jason Roberts as a benignly sagacious patriarch and Elizabeth Wilson as an appealingly dizzy matriarch. He has also cast Maureen Anderson and Nicolas Surry - neither by age or type an ingenue or juvenile - as the young lovers, and trusted their formidable skill and charm to play sweet-talk, potentially dampening to audiences today with the intensity and awakening sensuality of Romeo and Juliet. The overall effect is genial and rousing, as if someone were gaily spandancing to "The Star-Spangled Banner".

The greatest tonic of all to New York theatre is a good new American play, and *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (Alvin Theatre) is Neil Simon's best since *The Odd Couple*. Mr Simon has always had a distinctive voice, but beginning with *Plaza Suite* in 1968 he seemed to be arguing with himself. One voice spoke his famous gags, another yelped in anguish. The two blended uneasily, contradicting more often than complementing each other, making much of the work appear mean-spirited, slick and dishonest.

Perhaps, however, Neil Simon was being too honest. An unabashedly autobiographical and dedicated playwright who constantly avowed his desire to write truthfully and not for easy laughs, he let his inner demons loose to contend with the comic



spirit which orders his vision. Often the demons befouled the spirit, but one could see the spirit asserting command with *I Ought To Be in Pictures* in 1980.

Victory is achieved in *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, Simon's look at his adolescence through admittedly rose-tinted spectacles, the kind Eugene O'Neill wrote when he wrote about his boyhood in *Ah, Wilderness!* By coincidence or design, Simon's 15-year-old self in his coming-of-age play is called Eugene. Bright and saucy, charged with sexual urges which plague and tantalize him like firecrackers, exploding in an endless row, Eugene wants to be



The bravura of Zeljko Ivanek (top left) and Matthew Broderick in *Brighton Beach Memoirs*; Jason Roberts benign and Elizabeth Wilson dizzy in *You Can't Take It With You*; and Remak Ramsey's command of British character in *Quartermaine's Terms*

to character is abundant, as when Eugene says, after his mother yells at him for the umpteenth time, "If I told her I'd just lost both my hands, she'd tell me to go upstairs and wash my face with my feet". *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, acted with special bravura by Matthew Broderick as Eugene and Zeljko Ivanek as his older brother, shows us Neil Simon as the comedy writer he wanted to be, and is in this play: exposing wounds wrought by human folly and the world and comforting them with a skillfully mixed elixir of laughter and tears.

Holly Hill

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What we recommend

If your sole interest is in getting the maximum price for your holding, doubtless you will accept the Hanson Trust offer.

But if you consider it more responsible to preserve a major independent force in Britain's High Streets, and with it the prospects of our employees, you may consider a few pence per share an acceptable cost.

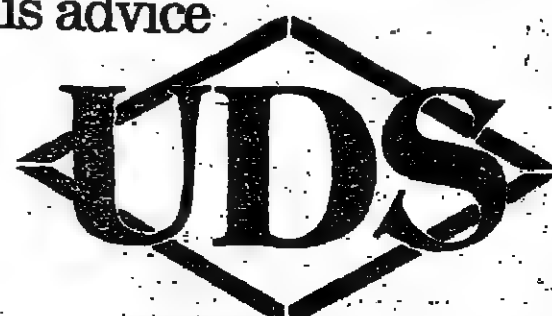
Although two of your non-executive Directors recommend you to accept the offer from Hanson Trust, in the view of six of your Board's eight Directors Bassishaw offers you a fair price for your holding and better prospects for your Company and its employees.

Our advice is clear.

Reject the Hanson Trust offer. Accept the Bassishaw offer.

Our financial advisers, Charterhouse Japhet, endorse the legitimacy of this advice and believe stockholders should give it the strongest possible consideration.

Please think very carefully before you make your decision.



UNITED DRAPERY STORES

UDS Group plc, Marble Arch House,
66/68 Seymour Street, London W1A 2BY.

This advertisement has been placed by Charterhouse Japhet on behalf of UDS Group plc. The issue of this advertisement has been approved by the Board of UDS (with the exception of Sir Robert Clark and Mr. David Jessel). Each of the Directors of UDS (with the exception of Sir Robert Clark and Mr. David Jessel) has taken reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate and each accepts responsibility accordingly.

مذا من رلاصل

Investment
and
FinanceCity Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

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200 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1X 8EZ
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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 685.2 down 9.8
FT 100 Index 51.88 down 0.51
FT All Shares 437.46 down 4.06
Bergsma 24.863
Ting Hall USM Index 172.8 down 0.1
Tokyo 8541.86 down 40.67
Hongkong Hang Seng Index 1043.18 up 2.21
New York Dow Jones Average (latest) 1178.12 up 5.12

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.5520 down 85 points
Index 83.8 unchanged
DM 3.81
FF 11.41
Yen 368.50
Dollar Index 122.9 up 0.1
DM 2.4520 down 75 pts
Gold \$439.50 down 52

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates
Base rates 10%
3 month interbank 10%
Euro currency rates
3 month dollar 9 1/8%
3 month DM 5 1/8%
3 month FF 13 1/8%
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for
interest period March 2 to April 5, 1983 inclusive: 10.974 per cent.

PRICE CHANGES

Bastian Int 12p up 2p
Massey-F 235p up 30p
Websters Grp 81p up 6p
Mills & Allen 400p up 35p
East Daggas 353p up 32p
Husky Oil 535p up 35p
Balcidw Hedge 18p down 5p
Whitway Watson 9p down 1p
Talbax 5p down 1p
Johnson & FB 9p down 1p
Marler Eats 92p down 2p
M James Int 22p down 2p

TODAY

Interim Dublin, Wada Poteries
Finales Barrow, Gephurn, Biddle Hdg, A & C Black, Brit Syphon, Briton Eats, Chesterfield Props, Danish Bacon, Fogarty, Haden, Hawker Sidelley, Minet, RMC, Sars Trst of Scotland, W H Smith, Steel Bros, Sun Life Assoc, Triplevest, Utd Paroels, Wadkin.
Economic statistics: Indices of Average Earnings (February), Indices of Basic Rates of Wages (March), Industrial and commercial companies capital account and net borrowing requirements (4th qtr).

BL 'faces fierce competition'

Sir Austin Bide, chairman of BL, said in his annual review yesterday that the company faces fierce competition from the world vehicle industry and must continue to reduce its fixed and variable costs in real terms if it is to match the advances being made by foreign competitors.
In 1982 fixed costs were reduced by 11 per cent in real terms.
There will have to be further increases in productivity, more effective use of manufacturing facilities and continued rationalization of products and components so that the latest automated manufacturing techniques can be used to maximum effect, Sir Austin said.

STERLING RISES: The pound rose to a new three-month high of \$1.57 against the dollar and touched its highest average level this year in early trading yesterday. But after profit-taking it finished nearly a cent down from Monday at \$1.5520, leaving its trade-weighted index unchanged at 83.8 after opening at 84.5.

SURVIVAL PACKAGE: Sir Robert Atkinson, chairman of British Shipbuilders, yesterday presented a package of survival measures to the Department of Industry. Ministers will now consider his call for special credit arrangements for domestic ship owners, the mothballing of some shipyards and more money for redundancy payments. Sir Robert has urged workers to accept a pay freeze in return for share ownership.
Industrial Notebook, page 21

PAKISTAN AID: Britain yesterday pledged, at a World Bank consortium meeting in Paris, a further £20m of project aid to Pakistan.

PROFITS RISE: American Express yesterday reported a 37 per cent gain in first quarter net income from \$118m to \$162m (£105m).

Wall St
stocks
turn
down

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Wall Street stocks were retreating last night. The Dow Jones industrial average was off about 6.1-2 points at 1,176. Its initial loss had been cut to about 2-1-2 points before the fresh slide.

Declining issues were still 4-10-3 ahead of advances in active trading.
Mr Robert Mintz, vice-president at Phillips Appel & Walden, said that "the market two weeks ago showed the same kind of resistance to selling pressure that we are seeing here. It may be pointless to expect the market to continue higher after eight days of advance but still there is no selling pressure; so you have to look at it on a day-to-day basis."

General Electric was off 3-4 at 110 1-4. International Business Machines off 5-8 at 111 1-2. Johnson & Johnson up 1-2 at 48 1-4. American Telephone & Telegraph up 1-8 at 67 3-4. Exxon off 3-8 at 33. Federal Express down 1-3-8 at 82 1-4. American Express off 1-2 at 67. Union Carbide off 1-4 at 61 7-8. Merck up 3-8 at 84 1-4.

General Public Utilities is up 1 at 8-5-8. The Supreme Court said nuclear regulations do not have to consider psychological stress in the licensing process.

The ruling came in an appeal involving restarting one of the two reactors at the Three Mile Island plant, Pennsylvania, owned by a unit of General Public Utilities.

Texas Instruments was 161 1-8 down 2-1-2. Teletype 142 1-8 down 1-5-8.

Shop union
backs
Bassishaw

By Graham Searjeant

The Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, which represents most employees of the UDS group, has urged shareholders to take the advice of the boardroom majority and accept a lower takeover bid from the Bassishaw consortium, rather than the bid from Hanson Trust, which is giving no specific assurances over the future of the UDS businesses or jobs.

The shopworkers said yesterday that it had received hundreds of telephone calls from anxious employees after the UDS board had sent round details of the different assurances given by the two rival bidders.

The UDS board yesterday sent another circular to shareholders, contrasting a series of assurances given by Bassishaw with the future of the Richard Shops and John Collier chains in particular with the lack of guarantees from Hanson.

Hanson announced yesterday that it has acceptance for 18.3 per cent of UDS shares, although its bid does not close until Friday. With prior holdings and a further 250,000 shares bought yesterday, this gives Hanson 22.75 per cent of UDS.

Bassishaw controls 15 per cent and the board about 1 per cent.

Bassishaw's bid closes on May 6.

British Steel cuts loss to £6m a week

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

British Steel has cut its losses by a third but is still losing money at the rate of £6m a week, the corporation has told its workers.

In the latest issue of Steel News, the BSC newspaper, the corporation's advisers said: "Without industrial peace, all our efforts and the currency exchange rates will not enable us to put an end to the losses which threaten our future."

The BSC said that the strikes in its South Yorkshire division, caused by the announcement of compulsory redundancies, could undermine the recovery. Progress could also be hit by failure to cash in on the BSC's "greatly improved" levels of efficiency and cost competitiveness and the pound's drop against other currencies.

"Our share of the United Kingdom market is better than for a long time, but demand that market is still so weak that our bigger share is of little account yet."

The corporation, which in January saw its losses climb to £9m a week following the collapse of steel demand last year, has been given until March 1985 to break even and a revised corporate plan for the next three years is still being studied by Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of Industry.

The full extent of the deterioration of the world's steel

industries is highlighted in the latest OECD bulletin of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development which shows that output among member countries fell by 63n tonnes last year. This was 16 per cent down on 1981. Average annual rate of capacity utilization declined from 69 per cent in 1981 to 58 per cent and employment dropped by an unprecedented 10 per cent with 150,000 steel workers losing their jobs.

Steel exports to developing countries declined, but the main cause of the industry's problems was a drop of more than 14 per cent in demand in the OECD area.

World debt level reflects caution

Bank lending growth slackens

By Michael Prest

Caution about the state of the international financial system restrained the rate at which lending by banks in leading industrial countries grew during the final quarter of 1982. Withdrawals by members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries continued and lending to Latin America declined for the first time since 1977.

In its report on International Banking Developments for the last three months of 1982, the Bank for International Settlements, which is based in Basel and acts as a kind of central bankers' central bank, says that the period normally sees an acceleration in lending.

But the total external assets of reporting banks in the 14 largest industrial nations grew by only \$33,500m (£21,600m) in the quarter. Measured in constant dollars this was half the rate of the preceding three months and just a third of the

Steps 'should be taken to remove BNOC'

State oil corporation serves
no useful role, says Esso

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

The state-owned British National Oil Corporation should be abolished, according to Esso, one of the largest oil companies in the United Kingdom. BP and Shell, the two other major North Sea oil producing companies, also believe that the oil trading corporation's role in North Sea price-setting should be reviewed in the light of the recent oil price crisis.

In evidence to the Commons Select Committee on Energy, disclosed yesterday, the three companies all argue that the way BNOC is statutorily required to operate has been proved inadequate and inappropriate by the recent fall in oil prices.

Esso said bluntly: "We believe that the reasons which led to the formation of BNOC

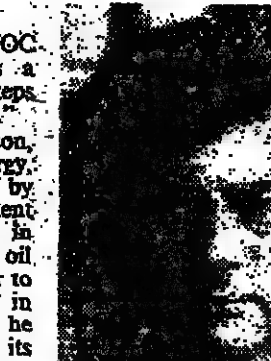
are no longer valid, and BNOC serves no useful role as a government agency and steps should be taken to remove it."

However, Mr Nigel Lawson, Secretary of State for Energy, defended the role played by BNOC and the Government over the last two months in seeking to stabilize world oil prices. Britain had no power to set the North Sea price in defiance of market forces, he told the MPs, but had used its influence to help avoid damaging violent fluctuations in the price. "But we will do no deals with Opec," he repeated.

The need for a thorough review of BNOC's role has become increasingly evident in recent weeks, as Opec has struggled to avoid a violent price cut. The views of the three

oil companies - between them they produce more than 50 per cent of all North Sea - are the most explicit call so far for its role to be changed.

While the corporation was retained by the present govern-



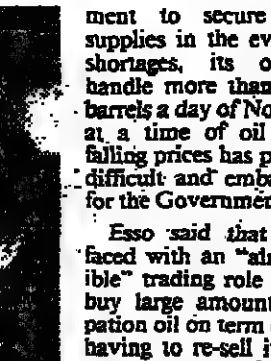
Lawson: defended BNOC's role

ment to secure British oil supplies in the event of future shortages, its obligation to handle more than one million barrels a day of North Sea crude at a time of oil surplus and falling prices has proved to be a difficult and embarrassing one for the Government.

Esso said that BNOC was faced with an "almost impossible" trading role by having to buy large amounts of participation oil on term contracts and having to re-sell it on a short-term contract basis.

This put BNOC in a "financially-vulnerable position and said Esso, "its trading function can clearly be performed efficiently and effectively by the market place."

Shell argue that the United Kingdom could do little to influence developments in the



Lord Forte: first compliment

world market when prices were stable, but in times of shortage and uncertainty it found itself unduly exposed. "By having to dispose of all participation oil, BNOC appears to have had conferred upon it a leadership role which surely was not envisaged at the time of its formation."

BP contended that BNOC faced "major difficulties in carrying out its oil trading role in view of the diverse nature and aims of its many suppliers and customers. Its need to fix a single North Sea price was particularly inflexible, and this should be changed."

Mr Lawson believes that no changes in BNOC's structure can be achieved realistically until the present turbulent market conditions have abated.

State borrowing target 'at risk'

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

There is a higher than usual risk that public borrowing will significantly exceed the Government's £3,000m target for 1983-84, making fiscal policy more relaxed than planned, the London Business School says today. It suggests this may add to pressures next year from rising world inflation and the lower pound.

The main criticism in its post-Budget assessment concerned the small contingency reserve and the explicit allowance for under-spending on depart-

mental budgets, used to dampen the Government's spending projections.

The LBS, whose broadly monetarist economic thinking is close to that of the Government, says that, unlike last year, costs are unlikely to fall below expectations while departments, having gained more experience of how cash limits operate, will spend closer to their budgets.

The LBS assessment was written before the revelation last week that Government departments, contrary to the

Savoy Hotel goes
£1.8m into profit

By Our Financial Staff

Sir Hugh Wootton's Savoy Hotel group reported a £2.4m profit improvement for last year. The Savoy, whose hotel chain includes Claridges and the Connaught, has moved from a loss of £604,000 in 1981 to a profit of £1.8m last year.

The first compliment yesterday on this about-turn came from Lord Forte, chairman of Trusthouse Forte, the world's biggest hotel chain which has designs on acquiring the Savoy Group.

Lord Forte commented: "Part of this improvement is due to further sales of assets. But my company (THF) being by far the largest shareholder, I am glad to see some progress being made. I hope it continues."

Mr Giles Shepherd, managing director of the Savoy, admitted that £1m of the improved profit came from a reduction in interest charges after the sale of some of the Savoy Hotel frontage on the Strand to a subsidiary of Ladbroke group. "But", he

pointed out, "the other £1.4m has come from better profit from operations. It is expected that the present year will show a further improvement."

To reinforce its faith in its prospects, the Savoy Group has increased its dividend substantially - shareholders this year get 30 per cent more than they did last year.

Investors' Notebook, page 23

Strikes
restaurants
for USM

By Sally White

Strikes London hamburger restaurant chain, is to be launched on the unlisted securities market by its parent company, Comfort Hotels, which will retain 90 per cent of the equity. Dealings are expected to start next Monday.

The launch is via a placing of 600,000 shares by bankers Henry Ansbacher and brokers Vickers de Costa. The company says once a market has been established in the shares they will be used to finance further expansion. The placing was at 47p.

Strikes has 23 outlets, of which 18 trade under the name of Strikes, four as American Strikes and one as a franchised Wimpy Bar.

Pretax profits for 1982 were £648,000 on a turnover of £5.03m. On that basis dividends of 1.35p would have been paid, giving a yield at the placing price of 4.1 per cent.

Companies' Bill since 1967, has been given three-year contract at about £25,000 a year for a two-and-a-half day week Mr Stebbings and Mr Wilkes have one-year contracts.

The council has decided to continue delegating most of its powers to the Committee of Lloyd's, which is made up of the 16 working members of the council, for a further six months. But the council will decide how the market will function to meet the requirements of the Lloyd's Act 1982.

The council has decided that its 12 external members should not hold any appointment with a Lloyd's underwriting agent or broker, and should not engage in any professional practice within the Lloyd's community which conflicts with their duties as council members.

Mr Davison said that the appointments would reduce Lloyd's annual spending of over £5m on fees to outside professionals. He stressed that the appointments were made by him and the ruling council.

Mr Brown, who is an expert on company law through his involvement in drafting several

Lloyd's hires experts
for new controls

By Andrew Cornallus

Mr Ian Davison, the chief executive of Lloyd's of London, is hiring three advisers at a cost of £100,000 a year to smooth the introduction of self-regulation measures for the insurance market.

The advisers have been drawn from Whitehall and the legal and accountancy professions and will report directly to Mr Davison, who was brought in to improve the image of the market two months ago. Mr Davison hinted yesterday that he would further expand the advisory team if opportunity arises. He said the appointments made it "a terrific day for Lloyd's".

The three advisers are Mr Philip Bedwin, who is due to retire as head of the Department of Trade's insurance division; Mr David Stebbings, a former senior partner of Freshfields, a firm of solicitors, and a member of the Higgins working party on divestment and divorce of interests at Lloyd's; and Mr Richard Wilkes, a senior partner of Price Waterhouse, the accountancy firm, and a past president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

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Imperial cuts sale price

By Our Financial Staff

Imperial Group, the tobacco and brewing combine, has slashed £9m off the selling price of the poultry, egg and meat businesses it sold to a privately owned Hildson Holdings last May.

Hildson had then agreed to pay £48.2m for the businesses which include such well-known names as Buxted chickens of which £19.2m was paid at once and £29m was to have been paid over four years. This balance has now been reduced to £20m but it will have to be paid off in full by next October.

The new price reflects the fact that Hildson was not totally happy with what it discovered after the purchase. Since last May it has been forced into a substantial rationalization, coupled with write-offs and redundancies, particularly at Buxted, and at one stage, according to the Imperial Group annual accounts, it was considering trying to reclaim £2.4m from Imperial to compensate for these costs.

It now seems happy with the £9m.

Robeco
HIGHER
VALUATION
FOR
SHARES

By Our Financial Staff

Since the beginning of this year, the value of Robeco shares on the London Stock Exchange has risen by 20% to £69 1/4 at the end of March, 1983, on the back of a favourable climate prevailing on almost all Stock Exchanges.

The fall both in inflation and interest rates, coupled with the first signs of economic recovery in the U.S., were the major factors contributing to investors' optimism.

The strongly increased interest in equities led both to higher stock quotations and price/earnings ratios. Rises on the Amsterdam Exchange, in particular, were remarkable.

Robeco was a net seller in American and Canadian stocks. Its principal purchases were in Germany and the Far East.

The above has been taken from the quarterly report published on 31st March, 1983.

Robeco, incorporated in the Netherlands in 1933, is an equity trust aiming to strike a balance between the provision of a substantial dividend each year with a reasonable appreciation in capital value.

Assets are widely spread over some 15 countries, with the emphasis

currently on the U.S.A. (38.3%), Japan (12.5%) and Dutch Internationals (14.3%).

For further details write to: Robeco N.V., dept. 382, P.O. Box 973, 3000 AZ Rotterdam, Holland.

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Looking for
a UDS
solution

By Our Financial Staff

The main problem for shareholders judging the rival offers for UDS is the lack of credibility of either of the stores group's boardroom factions.

Both started by condemning the first bid from the Bassishaw consortium. They split when the non-executives wanted to back a higher Bassishaw offer, both were then upstaged by Hanson Trust, which gained approval from the executive majority on the ground that it was not a property developer and would keep the businesses trading. The ruling Lyons family preferred Hanson's paper to Bassishaw's cash.

Now, however, the non-executives prefer Hanson's latest bid, which is higher and offers a choice of cash or paper. The executives, on the other hand, have wrung assurances from Bassishaw that it wants to retain all the important businesses, have joined with the unions to back Bassishaw and are trying to persuade the 16 mainly institutional groups that control 40 per cent of UDS to lie back and think of England. They are not likely to succeed.

There is a further complication. The original UDS defence against Bassishaw, set up by bankers Hill Samuel, was to sell the Richard Shops and John Collier chains to rival Burton. Part of the logic of this deal must be rationalization. Hanson is keeping its options open.

The credibility of Bassishaw depends on it having as chief executive chairman of Burton. Bassishaw would not sell to Burton.

Indeed, the likely final solution looks something like this. Hanson wins more of UDS than Bassishaw, but not enough to avoid a stalemate. Bassishaw then offers two deals. Hanson could buy off Bassishaw by raising its bid to 140p a share cash, which would cost a hefty £13m. More likely, Hanson will sell the vulnerable Richard Shops/Collier chain to Bassishaw in return for its cooperation.

By this ludicrous and circuitous route, shareholders, bidders and employees might all reach an acceptable solution.

Investors' Notebook, page 23

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APPOINTMENTS

Regional chief at Midland

Mr Jacques de Mandat-Grancy has been appointed Latin American regional director at Midland Bank International in London.

Mr Michael Gibson has become deputy director, marketing, of Lloyds Bowmaker Finance Group. He was previously group marketing manager.

Dr R. R. Boxall has been appointed research and development director of Gallaher Tobacco.

Mr Peter Prior has joined the board of Holden Hydroman as a non-executive director.

Mr Mike Sprague has been appointed director of international operations for Nairn International, responsible for Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland and the US.

Mr David Claxton, managing director of Courage Take Home Trade, has joined the Courage board.

Mr Peter Ballard has become company secretary of Henry Ansbacher Holdings.

Mr Senmas Cowley is to become underwriter for the G.I. Towers Marine Syndicate.

Mr David Jehu has joined Securplan as director of operations and Mr C. Brian Williams becomes director of sales.

Sir Robert Douglas has resigned as chairman but remains a non-executive director of Rapid Metal Developments (Aust).

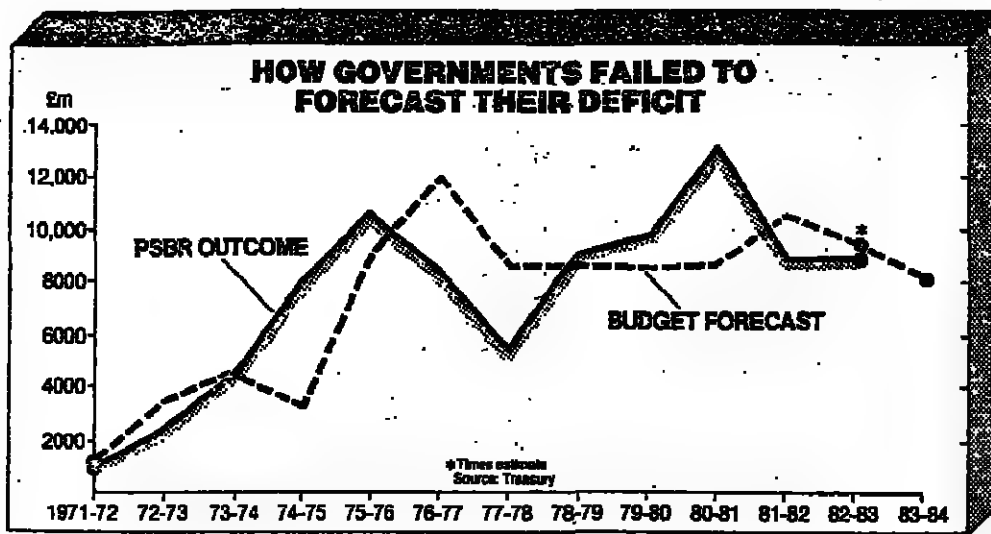
Mr D. J. Lemon, managing director, is appointed chairman. New non-executive directors are Mr J. R. T. Douglas, chairman and managing director of the Douglas Group, Mr R. J. Mierisch, managing director of J. A. Baulderstone, and Mr K. J. Cadman, managing director of Rapid Metal Developments.

Mr H. C. Everett joins the board of Rapid Metal Developments. Mr S. A. Seaberg joins the board of Douglas Environmental Engineering as director and general manager.

Mr R. J. Wilson has been appointed managing director of the Dacia Car Company. Mr Maynard Hamilton sales director of Genset Holdings.

Mr E. Q. Bashforth and Mr T. G. Robson have been appointed directors of Hickson and Welch.

Frances Williams on Treasury's surprise at spending spree



How public borrowing defies the art of forecasting

The chart has another interesting feature. Government forecasting errors clearly go in cycles, with two or three years of underprediction followed by two or three years of overprediction. After two years of forecasts higher than outcome has the Government been too optimistic for 1983-84?

Only 40 per cent spending is amenable to strict control

suggest. The latest figures appear to support their view.

Government departments managed at the eleventh hour to spend up to their permitted cash limits, in sharp contrast to Treasury expectations of a significant underspend. What the money was spent on we do not yet know. Redecorating the offices is a traditional play. Paying bills early another.

But this year's overall spending plans have been held down partly by inclusion of a £1,200m allowance for shortfall included, we are told, on the basis of experience with the cash limit system.

As Sir Douglas was told *The Times* last month a few days before he retired as head of the Treasury: "When you get a government which is very strict on its programme managers who overshoot, then you will get persistent underspending."

That experience has been confounded. If, as some believe, the March figures are becoming clearer at managing the cash limit system they may again be no shortfall in 1983-84.

This is all the more likely since inflation will be higher than the 5 per cent assumed when the spending plans were drawn up, putting upward pressure on programme costs.

In addition, the Government's critics say the contingency reserve, the smallest for some years at only £1,500m (of which £400m has already been allocated), remains grossly inadequate, forcing Whitehall to go over Budget to finance needed unforeseen expenditure. Officials, not unnaturally, take a more robust view. They

argue that much of the last-minute spending may simply have been brought forward, giving departments more leg room this year. A rise in the inflation rate does not necessarily signify a similar rise in government costs. And the spending spurge, by its very nature, must have gone on one-off projects rather than to finance longer-term commitments with carryover implications for the present year.

Evidence points to overshoot of borrowing forecast

At worst, they say, spending can exceed plans only by the amount allowed for shortfall, because cash limits cannot be exceeded without the Treasury's say-so.

Claiming that previous years' contingency reserves were unnecessarily high, officials say simply that if in the event there are not enough funds left in the kitty requests for extra spending will not be turned down. In an

election year, however, this could prove hard to do. Other factors may work in the Government's favour. Many analysts expect local authorities again to spend less than planned on capital projects.

In addition, economic recovery is likely to help keep spending down. This is less because of reduced spending on unemployment benefits — unemployment is not expected to fall significantly if at all this year, though some optimism is voiced privately by officials — but because reduced financial pressure on companies means they tend to press their claims for payment from government less urgently.

Higher growth also means higher tax revenues. It is the economic cycle rather than adaptive behaviour by civil servants which is thought to lie behind the cyclical pattern of forecasting errors. Forecasts tend to be too low when the economy sinks into recession and too high when it is on its way up. On this basis, another year of undershoot is likely. But there have been exceptions.

The burden of evidence points to an overshoot of the Treasury's 1983-84 borrowing forecast. But if it is overshoot, as widely expected, the implications are, if anything, benign.

It will give a small boost to demand, aiding recovery from recession. The financial markets, meanwhile, are unlikely to look askance at a budget deficit which remains the smallest proportion of national income of any leading industrial country, despite high and rising unemployment.

Certainly, a mini-Budget to put a gently straying PSBR back on target looks improbable. Apart from the evident political difficulties of raising taxes or cutting spending in the run-up to an election, the Chancellor has relatively few practical options available which have rapid effect.

Spending taxes can be changed quickly, but not those on incomes; public programmes can be reduced but rarely stopped in mid-year.

The problems of predicting the PSBR, and the Government's inability to target it accurately, inevitably prompt criticism that it is an unsuitable policy objective. But the Government sees no inconsistency between its desire to reduce borrowing over the longer term and year-to-year fluctuations.

"Just because a darts player does not always hit bullseye," one senior official said "does not mean he should not aim for the centre of the board."

Cry for shipyard jobs lifebuoy

The traditional "sunset" industries are a pain in the neck for Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Industry Secretary. However much he tries to brush them under the carpet in favour of the glamorous "sunrise" sectors of high technology, they persist in creeping back into the public consciousness with embarrassing reminders that they are big employers and often needy of huge amounts of public cash.

Yesterday produced a prime example. Across the table at the Department of Industry's headquarters in London's Victoria Street sat Sir Robert Atkinson, outgoing chairman of British Shipbuilders, who made no excuses for demand that his stricken industry be designated a special case.

Mr Jenkin and Mr Norman Lamont, his shipbuilding minister, have little choice but to accede if they want to avoid another round of redundancies in the yards that could reach 9,000 on top of the 3,000 already announced this year.

In an election year Mr Jenkin really afford to see more commodities, admittedly not in Tory strongholds, devastated and the country subjected to another bout of depressing news of big industrial closures? For that, in essence, is Sir Robert's message.

He has asked for a package of emergency measures to tide over his industry until new orders begin to flow again. These proposals are temporary and designed to meet the present crisis which is hitting shipbuilding throughout the world.

The Government has already pumped more than £500m into shipbuilding since it came into office and recently increased the corporation's external financing limit from £122m this year to £160m for 1983-84. The Shipbuilding Intervention Fund, introduced in 1977 to bridge the gap between British and Far East prices, now totals £355m.

But with British shipyards running out of orders (apart from the profitable warship yards), at an alarming rate, the money clearly is not being well spent. Sir Robert, due to be replaced in September by

£20,000-a-year Mr J. Graham Day, has £40m of Intervention Fund money to play with this year, but so far has managed to use only £13m.

The problem is that yards in countries like South Korea are satisfying their masters' hunger for foreign exchange by quoting prices on new ships that are unbeatable, even in Japan, and subsidies such as those provided by Britain's Intervention Fund are at best inadequate.

Dumping by Far Eastern shipyards becomes even more inevitable at a time of world recession. Last year, new shipbuilding orders fell by almost 50 per cent, says the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The answer for Britain surely is not to pour money allocated to the shipways of some far-flung developing country's shipyards but into measures that will ensure work at competitive, but realistic, rates for British yards.

The Government should take a leaf out of the Japanese book and give "special protection" to the shipways of its own country, are called special self-defence force vessels, patrol boats and fisheries training vessels?

This is the sort of emergency measure for which Sir Robert is trying to gain approval from Mr Jenkin. Without a positive decision by the Government to grant special credits arrangements to domestic ship owners and to fund other actions such as the mothballing of yards until better times arrive and the payment of more attractive redundancy money, Sir Robert — and later, Mr Day — will have difficulty in persuading the remnants of the country's shipbuilding workforce to accept a pay freeze and exhortations to improve productivity.

At the Govan yard on the Clyde, where there are new orders, the mood of shipbuilding workers throughout the country was summed up last week by a shop steward who dismissed as futile any move to begin a strike against further cuts. The battle, he warned, was against the Government.

Edward Townsend

Authorized Unit Trusts				Authorized Units & Insurance Funds			
Unit Trust	Units	Value	Yield	Unit Trust	Units	Value	Yield
1. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%	1. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%
2. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%	2. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%
3. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%	3. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%
4. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%	4. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%
5. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%	5. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%
6. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%	6. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%
7. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%	7. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%
8. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%	8. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%
9. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%	9. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%
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75. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%	75. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%
76. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%	76. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%
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84. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%	84. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%
85. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%	85. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%
86. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%	86. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%
87. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%	87. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%
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90. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%	90. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%
91. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%	91. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%
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93. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%	93. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%
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95. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%	95. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%
96. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%	96. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%
97. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%	97. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%
98. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%	98. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%
99. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%	99. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%
100. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%	100. British American Unit Trust	100,000	£100,000	5.0%

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK • edited by Sally White

Bumper dividend from the Bank of Scotland

Bank of Scotland
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit £245.4m (£247.4m)
Stated earnings 117.9p (123.9p)
Net final dividend 13.5p, making
24p (21p)
Share price 484p, up 25p Yield
7.1%
Dividend payable 6.6.83

Compared with the London clearing banks, Bank of Scotland has turned in a very solid performance in the year to the end of February. While three of the big four reported stable falls in profits for 1982, Bank of Scotland has come through 1982-83 with profits only £1m lower at £46.4m, helped by a particularly resilient performance in the second half.

Where it has excelled the London clearers is in the size of the dividend rise. After increasing the interim by only 5 per cent, Bank of Scotland has bumped up the final by 23 per cent to leave the year's payout a full 14 per cent up at 24p net.

The laggard within the group has been the North West Securities Finance House, where pretax profits were down from £11m to £9.1m. The merchant bank, British

Linen Bank, boosted profits by £800,000 to £4.8m and the Bank of Scotland itself was fractional-ly ahead at £32.3m.

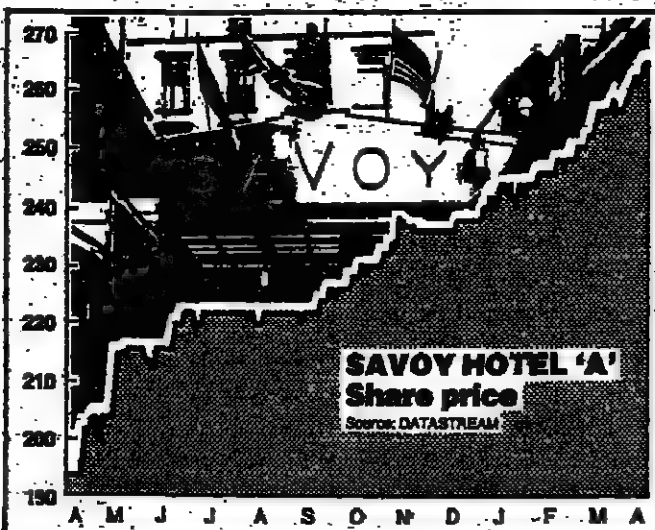
Group had debt provisions were nevertheless up from £15.4m to £27.1m but with costs under reasonable control—staff costs were 10.4 per cent up—and healthy volumes reflected in a 31 per cent gain in sterling lending, the bank has managed to turn in unchanged profits with the help of £1.5m of gifts profits.

This year's profits could approach £55m and the shares offer a generous yield compared with the market.

Hambro Life

Hambro Life Assurance
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit £19.5m (£16.7m)
Transferred to £16.5m (£15.1m)
Net final dividend 9.375p (8.125p)
Share price 374p up 2p Yield 5.3%
Dividend payable 23.5.83

Hambro Life shares have been making up lost ground in recent weeks, having been the worst performer in the sector.



Savoy Hotel

The Savoy Hotel
Year to 31.12.1982
Pretax profit £1.8m (£504,000 loss)
Turnover £37m (£33.9m)
Share price 266p Yield 0.75 per cent

Results of the Savoy Hotel group exceeded market expectations to the extent that the share price rose 2p to 266p; the outcome was a pretax profit of £1.8m against a general expectation of £1.7m or thereabouts. The improved figures put the Savoy on a dividend yield of 0.75 per cent and a fully-diluted price earnings ratio of 90.

The £1.8m presents a considerable turnaround from last year's pre-tax loss of £504,000. But the Savoy is not an investment stock: it is a takeover prospect.

The potential predators, Trust House Forte, can point out that £1m of the turnaround is due to lower interest charges as a result of asset sales. The potential defenders—Sir Hugh Wootton and the others who control the company through its highly differential voting structure—can point to a £1.4m improvement in trading.

This is a gamble, not an investment. The market is quite clear in its assessment: it believes the Forte camp will win.

Life should no longer underper-

form. Apart from rationalizing its product range and sales force, the group has also been working on cutting back on administration costs and staff expenses.

A further improvement in earnings per share should be possible this year, of around 10 to 15 per cent.

The shadow over share price, the placing of a large chunk of the stake held by Hambro merchant bank, is now off of the way. So given the growth in business and the market confidence in management, Hambro

add to the unit trust sales. Hambro is also working on new services, including entering the expansion market.

But the market has now regained confidence that the group is pulling in new business at a satisfactory rate. The new adaptable life plan, which was introduced to replace the whole life plan in January, has been well received, and the unit trust sales are now well ahead of the corresponding period of last year.

Earlier in the year the new business growth of just 6 per cent had caused concern. But new salesmen are being taken on, and the present team has stepped up its performance. Hambro says there is now a strong underlying growth trend in sales.

The 'deals done in the year', taking over Dumbarton and the tie-up with Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance, should

Combined English Stores Group

Combined English Stores Group
Year to 28.1.83
Pretax profit £1.75m (£2.68)
Stated earnings 1.64p (3.82p)
Turnover £102.7m (£96.7m)
Net final dividend 0.33p (1.66p)
mkg 1.82p (3.15p)
Share price 51p Yield 8.3%

Combined English Stores Group announced slightly better profits than expected for last year. But there is a savage cut in the dividend that has come rather late in the day, just as the group is talking of recovering from recession. That seems to indicate too high a level of payout in the past.

The source of the profits drop is the Fenton Menswear shops, which lost £1.79m at the trading level. Since the year end, there has been a turnaround because of reorganization in this section. The Fenton menswear shops have been given a new, more casual image. But to clear merchandise, a lot was sold at reduced margins. The recovery

coming through after the reorganization can be seen by the slower rate of loss, as the half-year figure was £1.6m.

Losses resulting from the reorganization have been taken above the line.

Combined English Stores says that the recession is still making trading difficult, but it is seeing some improvement in economic conditions. It is sure there will be a good improvement this year.

There were profits of £1.34m last year from property disposals.

There are hopes that pretax this year could touch £4m, in which case there could be some improvement, although not restoration, in the dividend. But the market is still cautious about the Fenton reorganization.

Honda Motor's 5 per cent dividend rise, at 10.5 per cent, and jump in profits of nearly a third reflect mainly the strength of its power product sales. But the 1.7 per cent rise in motor cycle sales, to 3.75m, and a 7.7 per cent rise in the number of cars sold, at 1.12m, are an impressive performance in recession.

Hepworth presses bid

Over the heads of the opposing board, Hepworth Ceramic Holdings has sent out its formal offer for Steepley. Hepworth's chairman, Mr Peter Goodall, puts forward some strong arguments why Steepley shareholders should accept the bid.

He points out that, over the last three financial years, Hepworth's pretax profits have risen

by 10.4 per cent while Steepley's have fallen by 48.7 per cent. Over the same period, Hepworth's earnings per ordinary share have decreased by 3.1 per cent, Steepley's by 71.4 per cent.

Based on the dividends of the two groups proposed for 1982, the ordinary offer would provide accepting shareholders with a significant increase in income, he adds.

Granville & Co Limited

(Formerly M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited)
27/28 Lovett Lane, London EC3R 8EG Telephone 01-421 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Yield	P/E
142	120	118	Am Bld Ind CULS	135	-	6.4	4.7	7.9
158	117	115	Am Bld Ind CULS	151	-	10.0	6.6	-
74	57	55	Aisling Group	63	-	6.1	9.7	18.0
46	30	28	Armstrong & Rhodes	30	-	4.3	14.3	3.3
516	197	195	Bardon Hill	316	-	11.4	3.6	13.3
142	100	98	CCL 11.0% Conv Pref	142	-	13.7	9.1	-
270	210	208	Chase Group	210	-	17.6	8.4	-
85	52	50	Deborah Services	52	-	6.0	11.3	3.4
97	77	75	Frank Horrell	97	-	-	-	8.1
551	75	73	Frank Horrell Pr Ord 87	95.5	-	8.7	9.1	10.6
83	61	59	Frederick Parker	62	-	7.1	11.3	3.9
55	34	32	George Hall	34	-	-	-	5.9
100	74	72	Ind Prec Castings	78	-	7.3	9.4	18.0
161	100	98	Ind Prec Castings	161	-	15.7	9.8	-
143	94	92	Jackson Group	143	-	7.3	5.2	4.4
308	111	109	James Burroughs	208	+1	9.6	4.6	15.1
260	148	146	Robert Jenkins	152	-	20.0	13.2	1.7
83	54	52	Servotons "A"	71	-	5.7	8.0	9.2
167	112	110	Torday & Carlisle	115	+1	11.4	9.9	5.2
29	21	20	Unilock Holdings	25.5	-	0.6	1.8	-
83	64	62	Walter Alexander	82	-	6.4	9.6	4.8
270	214	212	W. S. Yates	264	-	17.1	6.5	4.3

Prices now available on Printed, page 48146

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of the Stock Exchange. It does not constitute an invitation to the public to subscribe for or purchase any securities.

Schroder Sterling Fixed Interest Fund Limited

Incorporated with limited liability in Guernsey, Channel Islands

Authorized	Issued and fully paid
£	£
100	100.00
99,900	100.00
Unclassified Shares of 1p each of which there were in issue at 13th April, 1983:	
as Participating Redeemable Preference Shares of 1p each	1,883.00
100,000	1,983.00

Application has been made to the Council of the Stock Exchange in London for Participating Redeemable Preference Shares of the Fund to be admitted to the Official List. Particulars of the Fund are available in the Statutory Statement and may be obtained during usual business hours (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) up to and including 4th May, 1983 from:

Bankers to the Introduction

J. Henry Schroder Wegg & Co. Limited

120, Cheapside, London EC2V 6DS

or

Bankers to the Introduction

Cazenove & Co.

12, Tokenhouse Yard, London EC2R 7AN

20th April, 1983

THE EDINBURGH INVESTMENT TRUST

Preliminary statement for the year ended 31 March, 1983 (Unaudited)

- The net asset value per ordinary share rose from 71.7p, to 109.3p during the year to 31 March, 1983, adjusted for the one-for-ten scrip issue in November, 1982. This is an increase of 52% and compares with a rise of 26% in the FT Actuarial All Share Index.
- The ordinary share price adjusted for the scrip issue rose 4.2% in the year to 31 March, 1983.
- The Directors have declared a second interim dividend, in lieu of a final, of 1.30p payable 17 June, 1983 to shareholders on the register on 19 May, 1983. This makes a total dividend for the year of 2.18p (1982-198p), an increase of 10%. The Directors do not recommend any further dividend for the year.

The geographical analysis of the equity portfolio at 31 March, 1983

North America 51% United Kingdom 38% Far East 7% Europe 2% Other Areas 2%

The audited accounts will be published and sent to shareholders in the first week of June.

Additional copies will be available from Mr Colin Peters, Company Secretary.

The Edinburgh Investment Trust plc, Freeport, Edinburgh EH2 0BU. Tel 031-225 4571.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Harrison Crowley (Holdings)
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit, £258,000 (£220,000).
Stated earnings, 5.1p (4.9p).
Turnover, £17.84m (£18.01m).
Net dividend, 4.2p (3.85p).

John Crowther Group
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit, £48,000 (£270,000 loss).
Stated earnings, 1.1p (loss 7.8p).
Turnover, £5.61m (£3.85m).
Net dividend, nil (nil).

Webster Group
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit, £1.48m (£1.32m).
Stated earnings, 7.86p (7.14p).
Turnover, £40.3m (£37.43m).
Net dividend, 2.7p (2.5p).

Cussons Property Group
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit, £1.5m (£1.25m).
Stated earnings, 14.64p (15.61p).
Turnover, £6.85m (£6.28m).
Net dividend, 5.1p (2.9p).

Tilbury Group
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit, £2.5m (£2.17m).
Stated earnings, 14.83p (13.63p).
Turnover, £44.51m (£47.32m).
Net dividend, 5.0p (4.17p).

Boutead
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit, £452,000 (£1.42m).
Stated earnings (loss) 0.5p (profit 1.32p).
Turnover, £46.5m (£44.44m).
Net dividend, 1.25p (1.25p).

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	10 %
Barclays	10 %
BCCI	10 %
Consolidated Cabs	10 1/2 %
C. Hoare & Co	10 %
Lloyds Bank	10 %
Midland Bank	10 %
Nat Westminster	10 %
TSB	10 %
Williams & Glyn's	10 %

* 7 day deposits on rates of under £100,000, 9.5% £100,000 up to £500,000, 9.75% £500,000 and over, 9.5%.

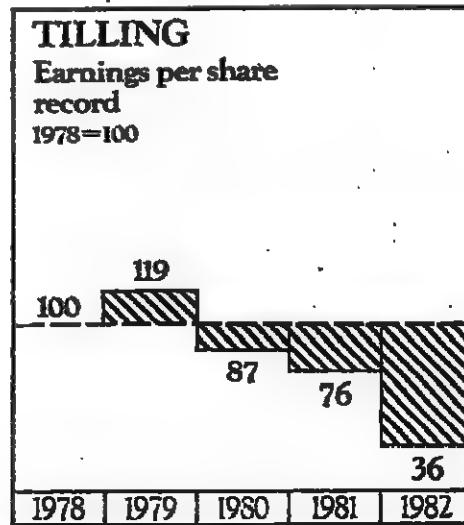
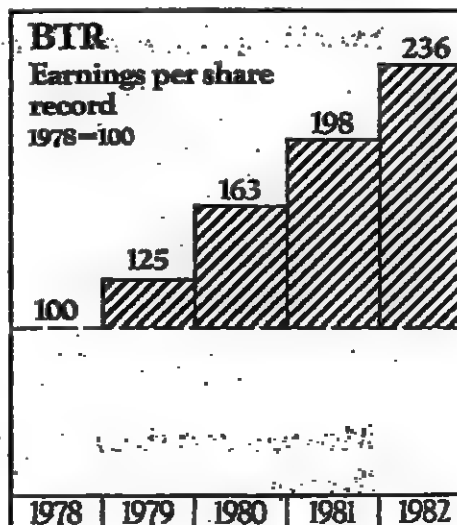
COMMODITIES

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL FUTURES	
Prices in pounds per metric ton	Prices in pounds per metric ton	Prices in pounds per metric ton	Prices in pounds per metric ton
Gold (1000g)	1000.00	Gold (1000g)	1000.00
Silver (1000g)	100.00	Silver (1000g)	100.00
Copper (1000g)	100.00	Copper (1000g)	100.00
Aluminium (1000g)	100.00	Aluminium (1000g)	100.00
Lead (1000g)	100.00	Lead (1000g)	100.00
Zinc (1000g)	100.00	Zinc (1000g)	100.00
Nickel (1000g)	100.00	Nickel (1000g)	100.00
Platinum (1000g)	100.00	Platinum (1000g)	100.00
Palladium (1000g)	100.00	Palladium (1000g)	100.00
Iron (1000g)	100.00	Iron (1000g)	100.00
Steel (1000g)	100.00	Steel (1000g)	100.00
Coal (1000g)	100.00	Coal (1000g)	100.00
Oil (1000g)	100.00	Oil (1000g)	100.00
Gas (1000g)	100.00	Gas (1000g)	100.00
Wheat (1000g)	100.00	Wheat (1000g)	100.00
Barley (1000g)	100.00	Barley (1000g)	100.00
Oats (1000g)	100.00	Oats (1000g)	100.00
Rye (1000g)	100.00	Rye (1000g)	100.00
Maize (1000g)	100.00	Maize (1000g)	100.00
Soyabean (1000g)	100.00	Soyabean (1000g)	100.00
Wheat (1000g)	100.00	Wheat (1000g)	100.00
Barley (1000g)	100.00	Barley (1000g)	100.00
Oats (1000g)	100.00	Oats (1000g)	100.00
Rye (1000g)	100.00	Rye (1000g)	100.00
Maize (1000g)	100.00	Maize (1000g)	100.00
Soyabean (1000g)	100.00	Soyabean (1000g)	100.00

This advertisement is published by Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited on behalf of BTR plc.



The record speaks for itself.
What better way for shareholders to measure management success?
1982 was BTR's 16th consecutive year of growth in earnings per share. But for Tilling 1982 was another year of deterioration.



BTR-Tilling
There's no comparison.



BACK THE BTR BID

The directors of BTR plc (including those who have delegated detailed supervision of this advertisement) have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate and each of the directors accepts responsibility accordingly.

Shanipour can measure up to a tall reputation

By Michael Seely

Both flat racing and jumping are trying for today's headlines. Cheltenham features the Anglo-Irish jockeys challenge match, sponsored by Courage. And if the go-ahead is given after a 7.30 inspection at Epsom, where racing was called off yesterday, our top trainers will be testing each other's classic defences in the Warren Stakes, run over the Derby course and distance.

Michael Webster, the assistant clerk of the course at Epsom said yesterday: "If there is no overnight rain racing should be possible as it is such a quick-drying course." Yesterday's Blue Riband Trial Stakes will, however, be incorporated in the programme.

"We discussed the matter with the sponsors, Epsom, yesterday and have decided that it was not worth while. Support from trainers has been poor and only five horses were declared. It can be seen that professionally the race could have been extremely interesting but it would hardly have been an official success."

The professionals concerned take a diametrically-opposed point of view. Gray Harwood, the trainer of Gormley, said: "We cannot afford to lose these classic races, especially the ones with pattern race status. There is an obvious conflict of interests. Racecourse executives are primarily concerned with attracting paying customers and they are probably correct in their assumption that the running of this race would not attract a much larger crowd through the turnstiles. The crowd through the turnstiles, however, programme their horses for these events and have legitimate grounds for grievance if every effort is not made to hold them."

In the past years the winners of the Warren Stakes, Glint of Gold and Old Country, have gone on to triumph in the Italian Derby. Glint of Gold's trainer, Ian Balding, is in fine form this season and his runner, Broom, is going to take

some beating. So, too, is Henry Cecil's John French. The latter was cleverly placed to win four races last season and is reported to be well forward, as is Bruce Hobbs's The Liquidator, who showed himself to be a useful three-year-old in the making when beating Herodote by three lengths at Newmarket last autumn.

John Dunlop's Kempton winner Harry is another to be considered in a competitive affair. However, preference is for the well thought of Shanipour, who is worth another chance after his disappointing run behind Welsh Idiot at Haydock.

The City and Suburban Handicap may be won by Morality Stone. Last Saturday Philip Mitchell's six-year-old caused a 50-1 surprise when beating Portogon and Lion City in the Newbury Spring Cup. A representative of that race, Morality Stone, proved too good at the weights for Cannon King, Florida Son and Uplands Park.

On the classic front Gormley is the favourite for the 2,000 Guineas for the first time since he disappointed behind Disis in last autumn's Dewhurst Stakes. The 10-year-old is the favourite for the first time since he disappointed behind Disis in last autumn's Dewhurst Stakes. The 10-year-old is the favourite for the first time since he disappointed behind Disis in last autumn's Dewhurst Stakes.

The Sedgefield meeting scheduled for yesterday was cancelled because of waterlogging.

Epsom

Draw advantage: Low numbers best.
[Television (ITV) 2.35, 3.10 and 3.40].
Total: Double 3.10, 4.10, Triple 2.35, 3.40, 4.45.

2.35 WARREN STAKES (2-Y-O maidens: £1,685; 5f) (6 runners)
107 CAPTAINS GIFT (C) Crowl & Ingram 9-0
108 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
109 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
110 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
111 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0

2.35 WARREN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,700; 1m 4f) (8 runners)
201 41111-1
202 41111-1
203 41111-1
204 41111-1
205 41111-1
206 41111-1
207 41111-1
208 41111-1

3.10 CITY AND SUBURBAN HANDICAP (Epsom, 4.08: 1m 2f) (13)
107 CAPTAINS GIFT (C) Crowl & Ingram 9-0
108 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
109 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
110 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
111 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0

3.40 GREAT SURREY HANDICAP (Epsom, 4.08: 1m 2f) (15)
107 CAPTAINS GIFT (C) Crowl & Ingram 9-0
108 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
109 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
110 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
111 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0

4.10 HYDE PARK STAKES (Epsom, 4.08: 1m 2f) (15)
107 CAPTAINS GIFT (C) Crowl & Ingram 9-0
108 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
109 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
110 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
111 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0

4.45 KINGSWOOD STAKES (Epsom, 4.08: 1m 2f) (15)
107 CAPTAINS GIFT (C) Crowl & Ingram 9-0
108 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
109 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
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111 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0

5.10 HYDE PARK STAKES (Epsom, 4.08: 1m 2f) (15)
107 CAPTAINS GIFT (C) Crowl & Ingram 9-0
108 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
109 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
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111 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0

5.45 KINGSWOOD STAKES (Epsom, 4.08: 1m 2f) (15)
107 CAPTAINS GIFT (C) Crowl & Ingram 9-0
108 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
109 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
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111 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0

6.10 HYDE PARK STAKES (Epsom, 4.08: 1m 2f) (15)
107 CAPTAINS GIFT (C) Crowl & Ingram 9-0
108 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
109 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
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111 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0

6.45 KINGSWOOD STAKES (Epsom, 4.08: 1m 2f) (15)
107 CAPTAINS GIFT (C) Crowl & Ingram 9-0
108 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
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7.10 HYDE PARK STAKES (Epsom, 4.08: 1m 2f) (15)
107 CAPTAINS GIFT (C) Crowl & Ingram 9-0
108 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
109 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
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111 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0

7.45 KINGSWOOD STAKES (Epsom, 4.08: 1m 2f) (15)
107 CAPTAINS GIFT (C) Crowl & Ingram 9-0
108 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
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110 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
111 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0

8.10 HYDE PARK STAKES (Epsom, 4.08: 1m 2f) (15)
107 CAPTAINS GIFT (C) Crowl & Ingram 9-0
108 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
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RACING

Forbidden Fruit is sweet for Eton boy

Point-to-point, by Ian Reid



Ian Balding: in form.

Giles Smyth, a 16-year-old Eton schoolboy who won the Haydock Adjuvant Hunt race a week ago on his first ride, Forbidden Fruit, returned to win the Novice Riders' Open on the same horse at the Hunt's second meeting yesterday. Smyth, who is a member of the Eton Hunt, said his horse had advised him always to ride The Times. "Perhaps if he appears in The Times tomorrow," he added, "he will be allowed the occasional day off to ride in another point-to-point."

Forbidden Fruit and Wellington, ridden by Corbiere in the National Hunt, have won in good style since the publication of the weights include Richdee and Pauline. There are no penalties for this race, so both horses must be considered well handicapped.

The Tote make the British team of jockeys favourites at 11-8 on to beat their Irish opponents at Cheltenham yesterday. The second race was Corbiere, Gittar, Sparan Missile, Red Rum, Crisp, Spanish Steps and The Dider, as much on his ties as even the challenge of John O'Neill, Frank Berry and Tommy Carmody. Scudamore is 15-8 favourite for the jockeys' title with the same firm, who offer O'Neill at 4-1 and Davis and Barry at 5-1.

The odds against Davies look particularly attractive. His chance of winning the Courage Best Handicap Class on David Baron's entry, Liverpool winner, King of Country, is obvious. But the Tote may have made an error of judgment in offering 10-1 against Shady Dove, Davies' mount in the Courage Directors Handicap hurdle.

Ridden by Cecil Price, Shady Dove showed great courage when defying 12st 5lb at Bangor on Dec 1st. Saturday, however, the 10-year-old was not in the same form. The 10-year-old was not in the same form. The 10-year-old was not in the same form.

The Sedgefield meeting scheduled for yesterday was cancelled because of waterlogging.

3.40 HAPPY EATER HURDLE (handicap: £2,250; 3m)
107 CAPTAINS GIFT (C) Crowl & Ingram 9-0
108 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
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4.10 HYDE PARK STAKES (Epsom, 4.08: 1m 2f) (15)
107 CAPTAINS GIFT (C) Crowl & Ingram 9-0
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4.45 KINGSWOOD STAKES (Epsom, 4.08: 1m 2f) (15)
107 CAPTAINS GIFT (C) Crowl & Ingram 9-0
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110 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
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5.10 HYDE PARK STAKES (Epsom, 4.08: 1m 2f) (15)
107 CAPTAINS GIFT (C) Crowl & Ingram 9-0
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5.45 KINGSWOOD STAKES (Epsom, 4.08: 1m 2f) (15)
107 CAPTAINS GIFT (C) Crowl & Ingram 9-0
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6.10 HYDE PARK STAKES (Epsom, 4.08: 1m 2f) (15)
107 CAPTAINS GIFT (C) Crowl & Ingram 9-0
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6.45 KINGSWOOD STAKES (Epsom, 4.08: 1m 2f) (15)
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7.10 HYDE PARK STAKES (Epsom, 4.08: 1m 2f) (15)
107 CAPTAINS GIFT (C) Crowl & Ingram 9-0
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7.45 KINGSWOOD STAKES (Epsom, 4.08: 1m 2f) (15)
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8.10 HYDE PARK STAKES (Epsom, 4.08: 1m 2f) (15)
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111 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0

Berry maintains his strike rate

Jack Berry's 41-1 double with Lady Car and Blackpool Belle at the Doncaster yearling sales, the type to go to heavy ground. But the 10-year-old was not in the same form. The 10-year-old was not in the same form.

The Sedgefield meeting scheduled for yesterday was cancelled because of waterlogging.

3.40 HAPPY EATER HURDLE (handicap: £2,250; 3m)
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4.10 HYDE PARK STAKES (Epsom, 4.08: 1m 2f) (15)
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4.45 KINGSWOOD STAKES (Epsom, 4.08: 1m 2f) (15)
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5.10 HYDE PARK STAKES (Epsom, 4.08: 1m 2f) (15)
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8.10 HYDE PARK STAKES (Epsom, 4.08: 1m 2f) (15)
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9.45 KINGSWOOD STAKES (Epsom, 4.08: 1m 2f) (15)
107 CAPTAINS GIFT (C) Crowl & Ingram 9-0
108 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
109 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
110 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
111 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0

10.10 HYDE PARK STAKES (Epsom, 4.08: 1m 2f) (15)
107 CAPTAINS GIFT (C) Crowl & Ingram 9-0
108 JACQUES (C) J. Balding 9-0
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Mottram makes the day notable

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

The Stars Express Classic, one of five British tournaments on the men's grand prix circuit coordinated with the help of Volvo's bank account, dipped into first gear yesterday with a series of matches featuring winners like Wally Masur and losers like Alberto Tomba. Can it be wondered at that there is some doubt about which is the main event at Bournemouth — the grand prix tournament or the over-35 doubles?

How times have changed since, for example, 1969 when there was a programme of 225 matches in five events and the men played singles and doubles over the best three out of five sets, with no tie-breaks. This was at a time when the over-35s were scheduled, 46 of them in the singles and doubles of the grand prix event and 13 in the over-35 doubles. In the old days the public had better value for money and more excitement could be seen in the sunshine of Bournemouth.

Can you believe that in terms of the quantity of entertainment provided that the number of matches played over 35 was earning an average of almost £2,000 a match more than today's heroes of the grand prix circuit? Nor does it seem much for the modern game that there are now three separate over-35 circuits, all of them successful.

Bob Howe and David Whitehead, organizers of the Bournemouth over-35 event, are somewhat embarrassed how do they cope with the fact that more and more players are eager to be invited and that the big name, getting past it, can easily be plucked into competition with much less than the good old days. It was necessary to play on all courts.

If we may assume that the grand prix tournament is the main event and it is a controversial

Stomach pains force Lloyd out

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

Los Vegas (Reuters) — John Lloyd, of Britain, was taken to hospital yesterday for tests and observation after suffering stomach pains before he was to play in a US \$400,000 tournament here. Lloyd was told to remain in hospital for the more tests and observation. Lloyd was told to remain in hospital for the more tests and observation.

His place was taken by qualifier Lloyd Bourne (US), who lost to Tom Gullikson, another American, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2. Lloyd Bourne (US), who lost to Tom Gullikson, another American, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2. Lloyd Bourne (US), who lost to Tom Gullikson, another American, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2.

After winning a tie-break to take the first set, Lloyd lost the first five games of the second set before Kriek was able to hold his own serve. Lloyd was able to hold his own serve. Lloyd was able to hold his own serve.

Los Angeles (Reuters) — Gene Mayer, the second seed, yesterday

defeated Johan Kriek, the number five seed, 7-6, 6-1 to win the singles title in the US\$225,000 Pacific Southwest Open.

Kriek, who beat the top seed, defending champion Jimmy Connors, in the semi-finals, complained afterwards about his stomach. "I have to do something about my stomach. I'm getting paid 100,000 dollars a year to use certain shoes. I have to use my own shoes. I was kidding around."

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England on target for lively win

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

At the start of the second set, Kriek was given a warning. "I swore in my native tongue," the South African, who had become an American citizen last year.

Gretchen, Florida (Reuters) — Barbara Potter, the seventh seed, served seven aces on her way to a 6-4, 7-6 first round victory over unseeded Lloyd Bourne (US), who lost to Tom Gullikson, another American, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2. Lloyd Bourne (US), who lost to Tom Gullikson, another American, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2.

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CRICKET: LOOKING FOR THE NEW SEASON'S GOLD AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW

Failure's fruit has the seeds of tomorrow's improvements

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

A continuation of one of the most successful Aprils for a long time has caused the postponement of the start of the first-class cricket season. Gloucestershire, who were to have played at Fenner's today, have been advised that there is no chance of any play until tomorrow at the earliest. The ground is awash; the Pigeon Pie, alongside it, has been for the last two days like an arctic waste.

When things do get under way, the counties, for the first time, will be playing twenty-four three-day championship matches. They have played 32 before now, and 30 and 28, 1 & 0 have even played 20. There was a time in the 50s when to play in the Championship, they had to play in the first-class game, although mostly they opted to play more. Next year, if some counties have their way, they may play 16, three four-day matches.

The reason for raising the number from the 22 of 1982 to 24 in 1983 is no selectors and players before an England side has to be chosen. County members are pleased about it, too, and that matters.

This is the last season, incidentally, in which the championship will be sponsored by Schweppes. For firms wanting to take their place, and wishing to promote next year what is the best competition of its kind in the world, the asking figure, from Lord's, is £250,000. Should they be interested in a package deal, the championship and the one-day, sponsored this year, by Prudential for the last time, are available for £400,000. The one-day internationals are on offer on their own for £150,000. If they need any encouragement, the remarkable rise in Cornhill's business since their becoming identified with Test cricket should provide it. From being in the second division of the insurance game's second division, they are now near the top of the first.

I am told on the one hand that the rains are building high, a sure sign, it is said, of a fine summer, and on the other that the mousetraps are facing south, an equally sure sign of a cold one. If the mice have got it wrong and the summer is right, it is hoped that by the season's end we shall have found two or three young England cricketers with great futures in the game.

By the time it ended the tour to Australia had become for most of us a depressing business. Yet the very cause for England's failure there could become one of the reasons for its revival now. In the absence of rain, the selectors must look for a good, sound method. Simply by turning on the television, even 12,000 miles away, people who know next to nothing about cricket could see the horrors that come from looking such method.

More young English players will find regular first team places than for some time. Worcestershire, for example, without Turner and Blair, the selectors must look for a good, sound method. Simply by turning on the television, even 12,000 miles away, people who know next to nothing about cricket could see the horrors that come from looking such method.

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Cowans and Dilley: a pair that could yet match the best.

Getting a significant acquisition could be Holding, who has signed for Derbyshire. Though a troublemaker, he will prevent him from ever being fully fit again, he may win them a match or two. If he should do so, in partnership with a Dane (Derbyshire are in negotiation with Ole Mortensen, a 25-year-old Tax collector from Copenhagen, and the TCCB has ruled that a player from an EEC country shall not be classified as a "foreigner") that would indeed be unlikely.

England continue the search for opening batsmen, with the three best of them, Gooch, Boycott and Larkins, all in baulk. Fowler was injured in Australia when he was beginning to show just sufficient improvement to be kept in mind. Though they have yet to make a name for themselves, Hugh Morris, of Glamorgan, Cockburn, of Lancashire, Moxon, of Yorkshire, and Green, of Sussex, are worth following. And for that first time, promising Barnett, of Derbyshire, will not have to spend a large part of his summer watching Kirsten and Wright making runs. The left-handed Morris, when at Blundell, had an amazingly mature method for a schoolboy.

Romances, a Gloucester player for Gloucestershire, did well in Grade cricket in Sydney in the winter which is a hopeful sign. Richard Illingworth, of Worcestershire, an orthodox left-arm spinner,

took plenty of wickets in Brisbane, also in a good class of cricket. Surrey have Test Match candidates in Thomson and David Smith, two more who were in Sydney, and Alan Butcher. Smith is a thumping striker of the ball.

Though disappointed last September not to be on the plane to Australia, Dilley may have been better off in South Africa, where he worked hard to get his rhythm back. There are such things as good tours to miss, and England's to Australia last winter could have been one of them. Still only 23, Dilley remains a genuine prospect. In two or three years' time, he and Cowans could make a pair of opening bowlers to match the best. Agnew of Leicestershire, by the way, came near in the New York to gaining a place in the New South Wales side, when he, too, was playing club cricket in Sydney.

I take Sussex to win the championship, unless Gattling fails to get into the England side, in which case I would go for Middlesex. For the World Cup, I fancy Pakistan. Essex and Somerset should win one or other of the one-day competitions. As Yorkshire's captain, 51, Illingworth faces his last playing challenge. It would be good for the game if he could lead a side to a title. Cricket, he says, is less fun to play than it used to be. But, as I am sure he knows, it always was when you are as old as that.

Colombo (Renter) - Stubborn batting by the young players on the Sri Lanka Cricket Control Board President's XI yesterday prevented the first ever Test match between the two countries starting on Friday.

The Australians, beaten twice by the Sri Lanka national side in one-day limited over matches last week, were the first to bat, between 11.15 and 1.15, and scored 115 for two wickets at lunch.

That set the Sri Lankans a target of 244 runs to win in 150 minutes and 20 mandatory overs and they started badly by losing the opening pair for 26 runs. They held on grimly until the close and scored 184 for eight wickets to force a draw.

Warakulasinghe (31) and Kuruppu (25) steadied the innings with a useful partnership of 44 runs for the third wicket. Australia's chances of grabbing a win seemed bright when four wickets fell for 72. Then Hemal Mendis, with 30, and the skipper Abeyaratne, 34, batted confidently.

But their dismissal in quick succession after putting on 67 runs for the fifth wicket dampened any hopes of victory and the tail-enders held on for the draw.

Leg-spinner Hoggan exploited wicket on pitches at one end of the batting strip to capture three wickets for 43, his victims including Mendis and Abeyaratne. Hoggan, the fast bowler, took two for 26.

Abeyaratne's second second innings, yesterday morning at 27 without loss, but the opening pair of

Wood (14) and Wessels (30) were parted after adding 16 runs. Wessels made 30 and reached a milestone of 10,000 runs in first class cricket when he made his 29th run.

Smith, with 33 not out and Yallop, 30 not out, combined for an unbeaten third wicket partnership of 67 runs before Hoggan, who captained, applied the closure in an attempt for victory.

Dodge, who has been out for a fortnight with hamstring trouble, is keen to play, but the captain Steve Johnson, said: "Paul is far too important to risk in a match before the final if there's a chance that the injury has not properly healed. He's a fit lad and the extra week's rest will be of more benefit to him."

ATHLETICS: Work began yesterday on a £1.2m expansion of the Northwood Sports complex, at Stoke-on-Trent, which will eventually have an eight-lane, 400 metre all-weather running track of international standard. There will also be a stand with a seating capacity of 750.

BASKETBALL: New caps, Coral Parle, of South and Tracy Kilgiving, of Brighton are included in the England basketball squad for the women's European championship in Yugoslavia from April 29 to May 5.

SQUAD: A Gough, C Davies, J Adcock, A Golder, D Harris, C Parle, T Kilgiving, A Curtis, L Baines, T Watson.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-38, 3-72, 4-72, 5-126, 6-140, 7-174, 8-184.

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Call for change by Sarfraz

Bomby (AP) - Sarfraz Nawaz, the Pakistani fast bowler, has called for "drastic change" in the present administration of the game in Pakistan.

He said in an interview yesterday that officials of the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan have a poor knowledge of the game - the Board president Ali-Mahmud Khan constantly interferes in the team selection though he is not a selector.

On a brief visit here on route to England to join his county side, Northamptonshire, and to play for Pakistan in the World Cup, Nawaz said the board had issued a show-cause notice to him for criticising the cricket administration, but had ignored similar comments made by Imran Khan, the Pakistani captain.

"I refuse to accept the notice as there is nothing in my contract to prevent me from speaking out."

Colombo (Renter) - Duleep Mendis, who led the team that beat Australia in two one-day matches last week, was yesterday named as Sri Lanka's captain for the first-ever Test match between the two countries starting on Friday. Mendis, aged 30, a hard-hitting batsman, was also appointed captain of the Sri Lanka squad for the World Cup tournament in England in June.

Mendis suffered a bad back during the qualifying competition, held at the Best First Golf & Racquet Club at Sarasota, Florida.

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Bugner could silence the man of few words

By Alan Hubbard

Danny Sutton, a former South Carolina farm boy, seems unlikely to stretch either the repertoire or reputation of Joe Bugner in their rounds, heavyweight bout at the Alexandra Pavilion tonight. He is a young man of few words, and even fewer credentials, and it will be a major surprise if the former European champion does not succumb for him as curiously as he has his last two opponents.

At 33, Bugner finds himself in a dilemma, ignored by both champions and novices. Lucien Rodriguez, the European title holder, will not meet him, and neither will the unbeaten prospect Frank Bruno.

So Bugner's Indian summer is a distinct chill about it. A less than comprehensive dismissal of the 24-year-old Sutton, known as "Smiley", will hardly enhance his chances of getting into the world title ring in the number seven slot occupied by Randy "Tex" Cobb, whom he is due to meet next.

It is hard to see what Bugner can gain from tonight's outing, apart from useful physical exercise and a few thousand pounds towards his superannuation. The American, like so many imported against British heavyweights, means absolutely nothing in the ring.

He is said to have won 22 out of 25 contests, and been floored only once, by the former contender Ernie Shavers, who beat Bugner a week ago.

The result of Sutton's rumourous encounter with Shavers, which took place on the carrier USS Yorktown, anchored in Charleston harbour, is still being disputed in the courts. The referee left the ring in a dispute at the reciprocal mid-emancipation, disqualifying both men. The local boxing commission later changed the result to a technical knock-out for Shavers but

"Smiley's" manager, Don White, has filed a law suit demanding at least a drawn verdict it is revealing to be told that Sutton is shy and withdrawn. Bugner has never been that, and comes into his own against opponents who lack ambition.

Sutton, stopped in his last bout by the former WBA champion John Tate (overcoming about heavyweight boxing seems to be prefixed "former" these days) is a southpaw, but I cannot see him testing Bugner's endurance, or the arithmetical powers of the referee, Mike Jacobs.

An indication of how hard it has become to find suitable heavyweight opposition in Europe is that the Swedish prospect Anders Edholm is without a foe for his anticipated British debut "groove" is, says the young Goliath being touted as the next white hope, "they take one look at me and run." Perhaps the promoter, Frank Warren, in the manner of his foe, should invite challenges from the audience.

Errol Christie, the unbeaten Coventry middleweight, will have his fourth professional contest against the American Sam Leonard. Tale, the Stevenage Leisure Centre tomorrow.

New York (Reuter) - As boxers tend to beat fighters the second time around, according to Emmanuel Steward, Milton McCrory's trainer, he is confident of a victory for his man whenever the rematch with Colin Jones of Britain for the vacant World Boxing Council heavyweight title is staged. McCrory, who is coaching the American, won the March 19 contest in Reno, Nevada, which was staged to fill the title left vacant by the retirement of "Sugar" Ray Leonard.

The Women's Professional Golf Association, a governing body of the Professional Golfers' Association, is hoping to acquire a new star attraction this season. They have issued a request for an application form from Jodi Inkster, the United States amateur champion.

The American equivalent of the WPGA, the Ladies Professional Golf Association, had hoped to recruit Inkster this season, but against all expectations, she failed to win the title. She finished with an 81 and missed the 36-hole cut.

Four players have previously won three United States amateur championships in successive years, but none since the success of Virginia Van Wie in 1952-54. Mrs Inkster's success as a professional seemed assured, but to start with, at least, she has suffered an unexpected hiccup.

The first event of the WPGA calendar, the Ford tournament at Woburn from May 4-7, is also the richest, with a prize fund of £20,000.

IN BRIEF

Leicester not to risk Dodge

Leicester, already without Dusty Hare, who is unavailable for the John Player Rugby Union Cup final against Bristol on Saturday week, will not risk his England colleague, Paul Dodge, in Saturday's club side at the home of the Leicester Tigers.

Dodge, who has been out for a fortnight with hamstring trouble, is keen to play, but the captain Steve Johnson, said: "Paul is far too important to risk in a match before the final if there's a chance that the injury has not properly healed. He's a fit lad and the extra week's rest will be of more benefit to him."

ATHLETICS: Work began yesterday on a £1.2m expansion of the Northwood Sports complex, at Stoke-on-Trent, which will eventually have an eight-lane, 400 metre all-weather running track of international standard. There will also be a stand with a seating capacity of 750.

BASKETBALL: New caps, Coral Parle, of South and Tracy Kilgiving, of Brighton are included in the England basketball squad for the women's European championship in Yugoslavia from April 29 to May 5.

SQUAD: A Gough, C Davies, J Adcock, A Golder, D Harris, C Parle, T Kilgiving, A Curtis, L Baines, T Watson.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-38, 3-72, 4-72, 5-126, 6-140, 7-174, 8-184.

BOWLING: 1-10, 2-28, 3-74, 4-72, 5-126, 6-140, 7-174, 8-184.

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La crème de la crème

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An excellent opportunity to join Foster Wheeler Petroleum Development Limited, who are well established as a leading offshore engineering company.

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Miss Pat Hennessey Publishing Manager,
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77 Borough Road, London, SE1 1DW
Tel: 01-407 8891 ext. 272.

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of Middle Eastern Investment Company

Location W2, must have excellent shorthand and typing and bilingual French/English, be flexible, able to work without supervision and have experience at Director level. The ideal candidate will probably be single, living in London and under 35. Salary is negotiable. Please send full cv to Box No 0898 H The Times marked private and confidential.

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Please send brief resume to:

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This post demands previous experience in planning and organising conferences and a good secretarial background. The successful candidate, male or female, will be expected to work as part of the team as well as manage their own workload for specific activities or conferences. Administrative flair, a pleasant manner, smart appearance, as well as the ability to work under pressure are essential.

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